ECONOMIC IMPACT OF AFLIBERCEPT OPTIMISATION FOR THE TREATMENT OF EYE RELATED CONDITIONS


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BACKGROUND

Aflibercept is indicated for adults for the treatment of neovascular (wet) age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and visual impairment due to macular oedema secondary to retinal vein occlusion (RVO), diabetic macular oedema (DME) or myopic choroidal neovascularization (CNV).

PURPOSE

To describe the indications achieved from prepared aflibercept intravitreal syringes in patients with mentioned ophthalmic conditions.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A retrospective study was conducted which included patients receiving at least one dose of intravitreal aflibercept from January 2016 to June 2017.

The variables studied were: gender, age, indications, average number of administrations per patient and the total number of intravitreal syringes.

Direct costs between the use of aflibercept syringes instead of vials were compared in order to calculate the economic saving.

CONCLUSIONS

✓ The pathology leading to increased expenditure on aflibercept was AMD followed by DME which account for around 75% of expenditure.

✓ The optimization of the vials of aflibercept represents an important economic saving.

✓ It is important to group the patients three at a time so as not to miss the optimization.

The protocol in collaboration with the Ophthalmology Service consists of grouping the patients receiving treatment with aflibercept and fractionating the vial → intravitreal syringes to adjust to the recommended dose of 2 mg according to the summary of product characteristics.

The hospital pharmacy department prepares 2 mg/0.05 mL sterile intravitreal aflibercept syringes from 4 mg/0.1 mL commercial vials in a horizontal laminar flow hood.

The vials contain a surplus and from each vial, 3 syringes are obtained.

During the study period, 265 patients were included of which 142 were men with a median age of 74±11 years.

The average number of administrations per patient was 4. Each vial cost €612.31 and therefore each syringe cost €204.10. A total of 1149 intravitreal syringes were administered and this meant a total cost of €234,510.9. If the corresponding number of vials had been used, the total cost would have been €703,544,19. The total savings cost was €469,033,29.