Analysis of the use of non-specific intravenous immunoglobulins in a tertiary hospital

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Background

Non-specific intravenous immunoglobulin are widely used in hospitals to treat different pathologies. Previous studies concluded that many were off-label uses. This makes it necessary to analyze the use of immunoglobulins in our patients.

Aim and objectives

The objective is to know the use of non-specific intravenous immunoglobulins in hospitalized and ambulatory patients in a tertiary hospital, as well as the prevalence of off-label uses.

Materials and methods

Observational, retrospective study, included patients treated with intravenous immunoglobulin from July 2018 to July 2019. Collected data were: sex, age, indication, dose. Data were extracted from the clinical history.

Results

158 patients (50.63% male)
Median age 66 (55-77) years

THE MOST FREQUENT INDICATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indication</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>n</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common variable immunodeficiency (CVID)</td>
<td>13.92%</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary immunodeficiency</td>
<td>12.02%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP)</td>
<td>8.86%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Conclusions

- Off-label uses are highly prevalent 44.94% (n=71).
- We must ensure, from the hospital pharmacy services:

  Ensure a rational use of immunoglobulins.
  Evaluate the scientific evidence in off-label uses, as well as the adaptation to the clinical practice guidelines.

  Implementation of protocol for the use of intravenous immunoglobulins by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee.

ATC: J06
4CPS-070