ANALYSIS OF THE USE OF MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES FOR THE TREATMENT OF COVID-19 IN CLINICAL PRACTICE: A WEAPON IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE PANDEMIC, ALONGSIDE VACCINATION

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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE
Vaccines are emerging as a fundamental tool in the prevention of Covid-19 disease but are not decisive in treating it, once contracted. Anti Covid-19 monoclonal antibodies (MAb) define a valuable and parallel resource for the treatment of Coronavirus infection so it is useful to monitor the usage data, adverse reactions (ADRs) and percentage of hospitalization after treatment.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES
Purpose of the work is to provide data on safety and efficacy of anti Covid MAb in consideration of their use in current clinical practice.

MATERIAL AND METHODS
Using home made database, the pharmacy extrapolated and reprocessed the data relating to the reports of patient recruitment by local and hospital clinicians, the number of patients who were treated, the specific therapies administered (Bamlanivimab, Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab or Casirivimab/Imdevimab) and ADRs reported by doctors. In parallel, the infectious diseases department monitored the percentage of patients who still needed hospitalization after the infusion of MAb.

RESULTS
Most of the recruitment reports were received from general doctors (82% vs 18% from hospitals) and, from March 2021 to September 2021, the patients treated were 104: 48 patients (46.2%) with Bamlanivimab/Etesevimab, 55 (52.9%) with Casirivimab/Imdevimab and 1 (0.9%) with Bamlanivimab. 67% of patients were not vaccinated while 33% received at least one dose of vaccine (58%: first dose; 42%: two doses). The main comorbidity found is the cardiological/cerebral/vascular type. Following outpatient dosing, 2 ADRs have been reported: an emetic episode after Bamlanivimab infusion and a sub-acute antero septal myocardial infarction with acute pulmonary edema occurring within hours after administration of Casirivimab/Imdevimab and in the presence of a septic event of bacterial origin. 9% of patients treated with anti Covid-19 MAb still required hospitalization due to Covid-19; the other patients recovered completely.

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE
Together with the home care protocol and vaccines, MAb constitute a valid weapon in the early phase of Covid-19 disease. It is an important opportunity because it allows to face the virus in an active way, without waiting for the worsening of the patient's clinical condition, and with a synergistic approach of hospital and territory that join forces against this great infectious disease challenge.