

The Pharmaceutical Governance of Low Molecular Weight Heparins: appropriateness analysis.

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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Since 2017 in our Region the Low Molecular Weight Heparins (LMWH) used off-label for prophylaxis and the treatment of venous thromboembolism in Pregnancy, Oncology and for Bridging therapy (bridge therapy in patients who must suspend anti-vitamin K drugs for surgical maneuvers) are supplied in private pharmacies on behalf of the Local Health Authority (LHA) through a new distribution modality named DPC.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To verify the economic and clinical impact of the new regional provisions on our Health District.

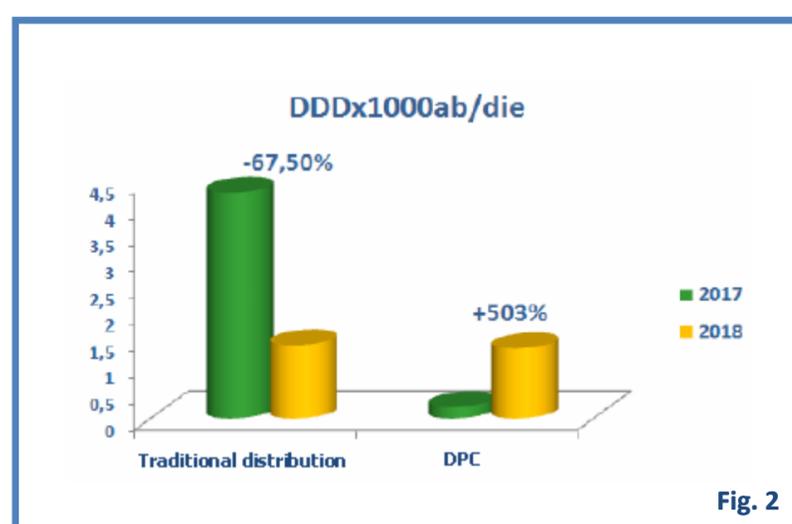
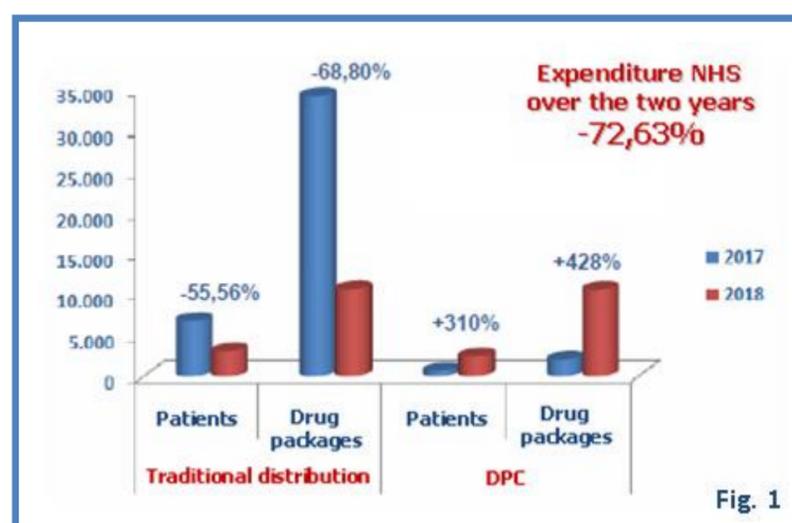
MATERIAL AND METHODS

We evaluated the LMWH prescriptions (ATC B01AB) paid to the National Health Service (NHS) of our Health District (about 164.000 inhabitants) related to the period January 2017 - December 2018. We analyzed the consumption in terms of packages, DDDx1000ab/day and spending using an electronic worksheet.



RESULTS

The treated patients (10.535 in total) decreased by 33,35% from January 2017 to December 2018. The implementation of the new distribution modality of off-label LMWH, named DPC, has led to a decrease in the number of packs supplied in traditional distribution (-68,80%) compared to a drastic increase (+428%) in those supplied in private pharmacies on behalf of the LHA (Fig.1). Patients who received prescriptions for heparins off-label tripled in 2018 compared to 2017; the DDDx1000ab/day have decreased of 67.50% in traditional distribution and increased of over 500% in private pharmacies (Fig.2). This led to an important reduction in costs for the NHS, with a decrease in the cost of LMWH of 72,63% in our territory.



CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE

The significant increase in off-label LMWH prescriptions carried out following the preparation of a Therapeutic Plan makes it possible to strengthen the monitoring of prescriptions, since the indication for which the drug is suggested must be highlighted by reporting specific codes on the prescriptions. The renegotiation of the prices of drugs provided by private pharmacies on behalf of the LHA is part of a Pharmaceutical Governance plan that results in a reduction of costs in favor of the patient's health, as demonstrated by our study.

