HEALTH ALERT OF TOFACITINIB AND PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTION

BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Tofacitinib → selective inhibitor of the janus kinase family indicated for the treatment of various rheumatological pathologies. The Spanish Medicines and Medical Devices Agency (AEMPS) released a safety alert stating that:

- Patients over 65 years of age
- Smokers or ex-smokers
- Cardiovascular risk factors
- Predisposition to the development of neoplasms

Should not receive treatment with tofacitinib unless no other available therapeutic alternative can be used.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Evaluate pharmaceutical intervention on the review of tofacitinib prescriptions to ensure their adaptation to the criteria established by the AEMPS.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- Retrospective review of tofacitinib prescription in a tertiary hospital
- Were included all patients on treatment with tofacitinib from July 2021 to February 2022
- Variables collected were:
  - Age
  - Risk factors
  - Sex
  - Continuation or discontinuation of treatment

RESULTS

N= 71 patients receiving tofacitinib treatment

- Discontinued treatment: 25.4% (18/71)
- Continued treatment: 74.6% (53/71)

- Presenting at least one risk factor: 43.4% (23/53)

Results were shown to the Pharmacy Commission, where the pharmacist developed a protocol regarding tofacitinib safety issues.

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

This is the first experience in our hospital regarding the global monitoring of safety notes released by the AEMPS. Despite the presence of risk factors, tofacitinib was not withdrawn or justified in a high percentage of patients. This finding underlines the relevance of systematic patients follow-up and the need to develop protocols agreed by the pharmacists and involved physicians.