DEPRESCRIBING LONG-TERM TREATMENTS WITH BIPHOSPHONATES: PHARMACEUTICAL INTERVENTION BRINGS VALUE

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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Bisphosphonate treatment lasting more than 5 years (BP5y) in patients without previous fractures and/or low risk of fracture does not confer additional benefits. The increased risk of rare and long-term side-effect associated with the prolonged use of bisphosphonates has been reason of safety notes issued by the Spanish Agency for Medicines and Health Products and other regulatory agencies.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The aim was to identify patients in treatment with BP5y and to evaluate the acceptance of pharmaceutical intervention over deprescribing in primary prevention.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

By means of the primary care data exploitation platform (Digitalis®) and after reviewing the electronic prescription, patients on treatment with BP5y were identified

December 2021
- Patients on treatment with BP5y
- Patients >85 years old

The physicians were informed via the informative sheets of the primary care information system (Turriano®) about the susceptible condition to deprescribing

July 2022
- Acceptance degree of PI was assessed.

RESULTS

At the start of the study, 186 patients were identified in treatment with BP5y

December 2021
- Patients with PI: 43
- Patients without PI: 8

Pharmaceutical intervention (PI)

July 2021
10/43 (23%)

Only one of the 8 patients (12.5%) had bisphosphonate discontinuation

33 patients continue with such treatment either out of necessity or due to lack of knowledge of PI.

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

The monitoring, analysis of treatments with BF5y and the corresponding PI have promoted the deprescription in almost a quarter of the cases, creating the need to extend the study to the rest of the patients. The importance of the pharmacist in the review of treatments is highlighted, as well as the interdisciplinary collaboration with physicians to achieve a safe use of the drug.