OFF-LABEL USE OF DALBAVANCIN IN GRAM-POSITIVE INFECTIONS: EFFECTIVENESS, SAFETY AND COST IN CLINICAL PRACTICE

Dalbavancin (DAL) has recently been approved to treat complicated skin and soft tissue infections. It enables treatments with a single IV administration, so it is a highly attractive option in other infections that requires long-term treatment. 

Objective: To provide information on the effectiveness and safety of DAL in off-label indications under clinical practice, and its impact on reduction of length of hospital stay and hospital costs.

METHODS

Study design: prospective cohort study.

Inclusion criteria: all adult patients who received at least one dose of DAL between 01/01/18 and 31/08/18 in a tertiary hospital in Spain.

Effectiveness was assessed by clinical success (resolution of signs and symptoms related to bacterial infections without microbiological evidence of infection during the follow-up period).

Safety was evaluated by the incidence of adverse drug events (ADE).

Cost was estimated taking into account the cost of the antibiotic therapy, the cost of hospital stay and the cost of nursing visits

Follow-up: at least one month after DAL therapy was discontinued.

RESULTS

• All patients received previous antibiotics for a median of 19 days
• DAL was administered for a median of 39 days (range: 15–150 days)
• Concomitant antimicrobial therapy was prescribed to 10 patients (53%)
• The administration of DAL allowed the immediate patient discharge in 73% of patients

Effectiveness: the overall clinical success rate of DAL was 89%.

Safety: ADE (mainly mild in intensity) were reported in 6 patients.

Cost: the total cost of DAL was €62,179. Overall, DAL was estimated to reduce hospitalisation by 273 days, with an estimated overall cost reduction of €67,466 (€3,551 per patient).

CONCLUSIONS

• Dalbavancin appears to be an effective and safe therapy in several serious Gram-positive infections.
• Its use to facilitate hospital discharge can potentially lead to cost savings.

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