USE OF ERYTROPOIESIS-STIMULATING AGENTS IN PATIENTS WITH ANEMIA OF CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE


Background:
Anemia is a common complication of chronic Kidney disease (CKD), and its correction with erythropoiesis-stimulating agents (ESAs) is associated with improved patient outcomes and quality of life.

Objective:
To evaluate demographic and clinical characteristics of outpatients with CKD and anemia, treated with epoetin alfa (EPO) or darbepoetin alfa (DARB). To compare utilization of ESAs in predialysis patients.

Methods:
Population analysed: patients with CKD and treated with ESAs, registered in our pharmacy outpatient database.

Type and period of study: Descriptive observational study, from March to July 2011.

Data collected:
► Age, Gender.
► GRF and Cause of CKD.
► ESA prescribed and dosage of ESA.
► The last data of haemoglobin (Hb), serum ferritin level and transferrin saturation.
► Utilization of ESAs, was analyzed in the group of predialysis patients (stage 3 and 4 of CKD) with Hb levels between 10 and 12 g/dl (actual FDA and EMA targets).

Results:
476 patients were registered, 51.5% men, average age 69.4±15.6 years.

Subgroup of predialysis patients with Hb level between 10-12 g/dl
155 patients, 51% men, average age 70±16.4 years.

Conclusions:
A high number of patients are above the safe limit (12g/dl), action must be taken to improve the quality of pharmacotherapy. The dose ratio within EPO and DARB was 192:1.