happen at home and those reported to physicians at the time of the subsequent course.

**Purpose** To set up a comprehensive tool for AE reporting by patients and to assess whether it leads to an improvement in patients’ quality of life.

**Materials and Methods** All consecutive patients treated in a day hospital oncological ward (digestive, thoracic, dermatological and haematology) over four courses of chemotherapy were included. A physician-patient logbook of 14 questions (rated from 1 = absence to 4 = strong) was completed daily during the first and third TIs. A global score was calculated for each course and compared to the results of QLQc30 forms.

**Results** Thirty-four patients were included, with a mean age of 59.9 and a male/female ratio of 1.3. A majority of metastatic diseases (67.6%) had a WHO performance status (PS) score of 0/1 (88.2%). Most frequent AEs during the first TI were eating disorders (1.72 ± 0.11) and pain (1.41 ± 0.08). The daily score progressively decreased over subsequent TIs. Mean global score was 1.51 ± 0.06 and 1.14 ± 0.06 after the first and third TI, respectively. The frequency of all side effects decreased between the first and third courses. Eating disorders (1.28 ± 0.10) and neuropathy (1.23 ± 0.08) were the most frequent AEs in the third TI. Results of QLQc30 forms showed an improvement of the quality of life between the first and fourth courses. Most important improvements concerned nausea/vomiting (respectively score 22.1 to 8.3) and loss of appetite (score 5.4 to 21.2).

**Conclusions** A better awareness of AEs of anti-cancer drugs may improve their management. The use of a logbook could be helpful, as its interpretation may be related to an improvement in the quality of life.

No conflict of interest.

**Additional Information**

**AN OLD FRIEND FOR MINIMISING COST: DIRECT INTRAVENOUS ADMINISTRATION**

**Purpose** To describe the strategy for administering high-consumption intravenous drugs (IVd) directly and estimating the associated resources saved in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

**Materials and Methods** We obtained a list of drugs whose consumption in the ICU was more than 1,000 units/year.

After a literature review, we selected those that could be safely administered via IVd but are usually administered in intermittent intravenous infusion. We prepared a table containing instructions for their reconstitution and administration.

For four weeks two nurses administered the medicines that had been prescribed and were included in the table via IVd, recording: drug, time spent in preparation & administration and adverse reactions related to the route of administration.

**After collecting data:**

We estimated the direct cost savings in fluids if all drugs consumed by the unit and included in the table had been administered by IVd during 2010.

We compared the time spent on the preparation and administration of drug doses used in routine practise versus time used to implement this strategy.

**Results** The ICU used more than 1,000 units/year of each of 39 intravenous substances, of which 12 were included in the table: metoclopramide, colistimethate, hydrocortisone, piperacillin/tazobactam, fosfomycin, melphalan and ranitidine.

The nurses made 117 administrations via IVd (following the usual procedure) of these drugs. The average time was 6.5 minutes for preparation and administration of each dose and no adverse reactions were detected related to the route of administration.

We estimate the ICU can save 28,000€/year.

**Conclusions** Direct IV administration can be safe and efficient.

The extension of a programme of this type throughout the Hospital could increase efficiency and rational use of medicines significantly.

No conflict of interest.