

6ER-025 EFFECTIVENESS AND SAFETY OF 20% AUTOLOGOUS SERUM EYE DROPS IN PATIENTS WITH CORNEAL SURFACE PATHOLOGIES

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Background and Importance Autologous serum eye drops (SAED), a pharmaceutical formulation prepared from patient's blood, are used in corneal surface pathologies. Since alternative therapies are limited, its prescription has increased in recent years.

Aim and Objectives Analyse effectiveness and safety of SAED in patients diagnosed with corneal surface pathologies.

Material and Methods Observational, retrospective study in a secondary hospital between January 2019 and March 2022 including patients treated with 20% SAED.

Variables: demographic data, diagnose, concomitant diseases, duration of treatment, ocular affection (left eye (LE), right eye (RE), both eyes (BE)), subjective clinical improvement (SCI), adverse effects (AE), concomitant treatments, visual acuity (VA) at months 0, 3 and 6 of treatment.

Effectiveness was evaluated by SCI and VA, measured on a decimal scale, at three and six months of treatment. Safety was evaluated by AE documented in medical records.

Results Thirty-five patients (77% women) were included with mean age 61 years (20-96). Principals diagnoses were: dry eye syndrome (n=15), superficial punctate keratitis (n=10) and Sjögren's syndrome (n=9). Forty-eight percent of patients presented concomitant diseases, highlighting fibromyalgia in six of them.

Mean treatment length was 500 ± 348 days. Ten patients (28%) discontinued treatment during the study. The reasons were: reaction to 20% SAED (n=4), remission (n=4), death not associated with the treatment (n=1) and change of hospital (n=1).

Twenty-nine patients (82%) had affection in BE. SCI was observed in 82% of patients at months three and six. Principals AE were: conjunctival hyperaemia (n=4), blepharitis (n=2), stinging (n=1) and tears with excess mucus (n=1). Artificial tears (51%) and corticosteroids eye drops (11%) were the main concomitant treatments.

VA data was available in 14 patients (40%). Mean VA in RE was 0.80 ± 0.29 , 0.80 ± 0.31 and 0.82 ± 0.25 at months 0,3 and 6 respectively. Mean VA in LE was 0.85 ± 0.25 , 0.83 ± 0.23 and 0.87 ± 0.15 respectively.

Conclusion and Relevance According to SCI and VA's progressive improvement over the months and a low incidence of AE, 20% SAED are an effective and safe treatment for corneal surface pathologies.

REFERENCES AND/OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Conflict of Interest No conflict of interest.

6ER-026 SPECTRUM OF HEART FAILURE IN 16 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRIES: TREATMENTS AND IN-HOSPITAL OUTCOME

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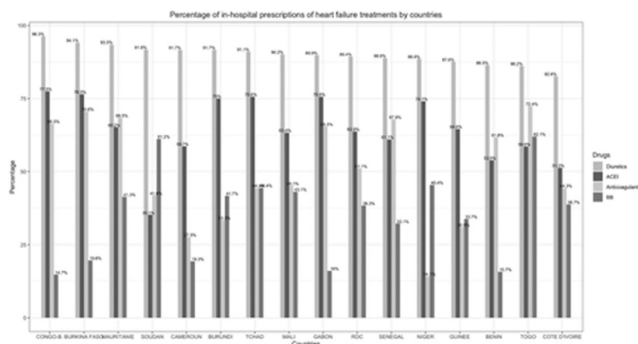
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Background and Importance Heart failure (HF) is the most common primary diagnosis for patients admitted to hospital with heart disease in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). However, little is known about the management of HF in hospitalisation in SSA.

Aim and Objectives To describe in hospital drugs strategies to manage HF in 36 cardiovascular (CV) departments.

Material and Methods We conducted a transversal and longitudinal study in CV departments of 36 hospital (public and private) in 16 SSA countries. The February study is an ongoing observatory included all inpatients in February from each year since 2016. Data including socio-demographic and clinical characteristics, CV risk factors, causes of admission, medication and length of stay were collected during hospitalisation by physicians. Patient wealth index was assessed by physicians as low, middle and high according to patient capacity to afford hospitalisation. All analyses were performed with random effect on countries and through scripts developed in the R software 4.0.3.

Results Overall, 2084 patients were admitted for HF in the February study. HF representing 47.9% of all patients included. The mean age was 57 ± 17.4 years and 53.8% were men. Proportions of patients admitted for HF varied across countries from 21.4% in Burundi to 66% in Congo ($p < 0.01$). Average length of stay in hospitals was 11 days and mortality rate was 13%. Among HF patients, 74% of patients had CV risk factors and hypertension was reported in 55.8% of patients. During hospitalisation, 88.8% of patients were treated with diuretics followed by angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors (ACEI) (61.8%), anticoagulant (47.8%) and beta blockers (BB) (34.6%) (figure). Monotherapy were used in 14%, combination of two drugs, three drugs and four drugs strategies were used in 35%, 33% 12% respectively. Diuretics were mostly prescribed in patient with low wealth index whereas ACEI, BB and anticoagulant in high wealth index ($p < 0.05$).



Abstract 6ER-026 Figure 1

Conclusion and Relevance HF treatment access varied significantly across countries and according to patient wealth index.

REFERENCES AND/OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Conflict of Interest No conflict of interest.

6ER-027 ASSESSMENT OF ATTITUDES AND PERCEIVED SKILFULNESS OF PHARMACY STUDENTS IN CARING FOR UNDERSERVED POPULATIONS

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Background and Importance Studies indicate that gaps in knowledge about underserved patient care issues may be associated with the level of comfort and attitudes of pharmacy students caring for underserved patients.

Aim and Objectives The objective of this study was to assess the attitudes, perceived knowledge, and skills of pharmacy students to deliver care to underserved populations.

Material and Methods 385 pharmacy students were eligible to participate in the study. Students completed a modified version of the Health Professionals' Attitudes Toward the Homeless Inventory administered between December 2020 and January 2021. Each participant was asked to rate their level of agreement with 8 statements concerning attitudes toward the underserved and 8 statements regarding perceived skilfulness in caring for the underserved in providing medication reconciliation services and patient counselling on a scale from 1 to 5.

Results The response rate was 22% (n=85). Most students felt comfortable providing medication therapy management (78%), medication reconciliation (79%), and patient counselling (78%) services. 88% felt they knew how to communicate with patients from different cultural backgrounds. The average perceived skilfulness in completing medication reconciliation activities varied longitudinally across class years (P1, 3.4 ± 1.08 ; P2, 4.27 ± 1.01 ; P3, 4.8 ± 1.01 ; P4, 5.0 ± 0.89). The average perceived skilfulness in addressing patients from different cultural backgrounds was highest for students in the P1 years (4.09 ± 1.12) and lowest for students in the P2 class year (3.91 ± 1.21).

Conclusion and Relevance The attitudes and comfort levels of students toward underserved populations did not differ significantly between class years. The perceived skilfulness increased longitudinally between first and fourth-year students in the areas of conducting medication reconciliation activities, counselling and assessing medication understanding in underserved patients. Students in the P1 class year perceived skilfulness in caring for the underserved was higher than students in the P4 class year.

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6ER-029 EYE DROPS OF INTERFERON ALPHA-2B TO TREAT OCULAR PATHOLOGIES

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Background and Importance Interferon alpha-2b is an option of treatment in malignant ocular pathologies such as ocular squamous surface neoplasia (OSSN) but its use is less extended to benign diseases like pterygium. In our country we had available Intron® to made eye drops until 2021 June, but its production was discontinued and another drug (Bioferon®) with few data of safety in ocular administration was imported.

Aim and Objectives To evaluate the efficacy and safety of two different drugs (Intron® and Bioferon®) in the treatment of ophthalmic pathologies.

Material and Methods All patients who underwent treatment with eye drops of interferon alpha-2b in our hospital from April of 2009 until August of 2022 were selected. We registered age, type of pathology, time of treatment, adverse events, recurrences and response (partial, complete or surgery immediately after or before treatment).

A literature search was done to make the eye drops from Bioferon® and finally we used water for injection to reconstitute the vial and balanced saline solution to complete 10 mL of volume (concentration of 10 mg/mL).

Results Thirty-six patients received 38 treatments (two patients had both eyes affected). By type of pathology, 24 were pterygium, 8 OSSN, 2 papilloma, 1 epidermoid carcinoma and 1 clear cell carcinoma. From the total of patients with pterygium, 54% received surgery, 21% had partial response and 25% had no response; four patients with malignant pathology (OSSN and carcinomas) had complete response, 2 had partial responses and 4 were operated. All patients with papilloma underwent surgery.

On groups of malignant pathology and papilloma 1 patient had recurrence at each one. Evaluation of recurrences in pterygium group was hard due to lack of follow up after