

Evaluation of knowledge of patients with inflammatory bowel disease treated by the reference product concerning biosimilars : Role of clinical pharmacist

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Background

Anti-TNF monoclonal antibodies such as infliximab have revolutionized the treatment of patients with inflammatory bowel disease. Since a few years several biosimilars of the reference product have reached the European market. Switching inflammatory bowel disease patients from original infliximab to biosimilars is under debate

Objectives

The aim of our study was to investigate the inflammatory bowel disease patient's knowledge about infliximab biosimilars and their judgment about switching to a biosimilar.

Methods

Standardized interview

- Evaluate the patient's knowledge about biosimilar
- Give them the missing information

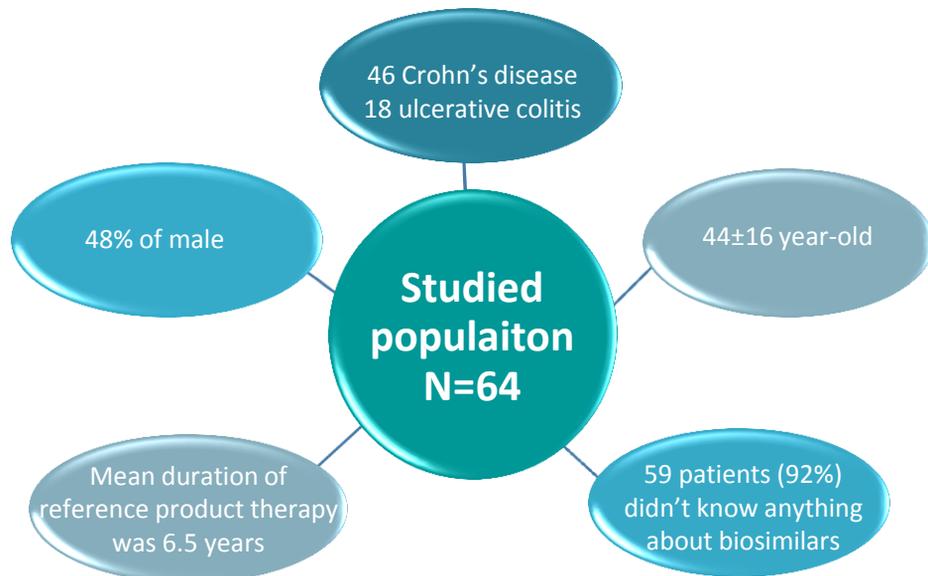
Survey

- Has the switch been accepted ?
- What fears have been expressed ?

Transmission

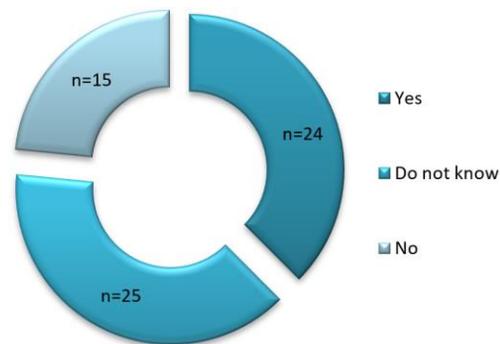
- Saving of a pharmaceutical note in the patient's medical record to inform the physician about patient's knowledge and judgment

Results



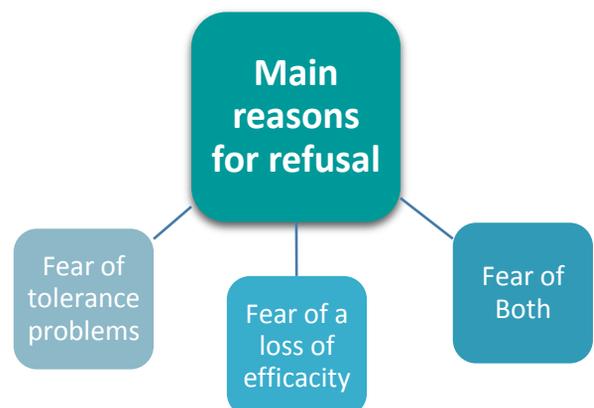
Consent to switch to biosimilar

After the interview, 38% of patients (n=24) declared their acceptance of switching to biosimilar, 23% (n=15) refuse the switch and 39% (n=25) were indecisive.



→ 11 of 25 (=44%) indecisive patients were open to consider the switch to biosimilar after discussion with their referring physician.

Concerning patients who refuse



Conclusion

In our study we have shown a significant lack of knowledge of patients treated with the reference product about biosimilars. Nonetheless, after an interview with a clinical pharmacist, most of the patients had a positive perception of biosimilars and accepted the switch from the reference product to biosimilar. This study highlighted the need for patient education about biosimilars in order to authorize the switch of these biologics and the major role of clinical pharmacists in providing this education.



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