

ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSOCIATED WITH A FARICIMAB VIAL SHARING PROTOCOL IN PATIENTS WITH AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION IN THE HOSPITAL OF SAGUNTO

Abstract Number: 3PC-009



J. BORRAS 1, J. ABAD 1, S. LUNA VICENTE 1, L. PEREZ GIL 2, J. ZARCO BOSQUET 2. .

1- Servicio de Farmacia. Hospital de Sagunto 2- Servicio de Oftalmología. Hospital de Sagunto

Background and importance

- Neovascular age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and diabetic macular edema (DME) are the leading cause of legal blindness in developed countries. Faricimab is a novel bispecific antibody targeting vascular endothelial growth factor A and angiopoietin-2, offering significant benefits in the treatment of AMD and DME. However, its high cost can limit accessibility for many patients. It is common practice among hospital pharmacy services to compound and divide the large volume of faricimab into smaller units that are suitable for single-use intravitreal doses for individual eyes.

Aim and objectives

- This study sought to determine the cost savings that can be achieved by implementing a faricimab vial sharing protocol in patients with AMD and DME in the Hospital of Sagunto. The procedure for the fractionation of Faricimab was approved by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee of Sagunto Hospital.

Materials and methods

- A 6-month technical, observational, and retrospective study performed from 1 May to 1 November 2024 at the Hospital of Sagunto. Faricimab fractioning method consisted of aliquoting the product in a laminar flow hood, in the compounding area of pharmacy for the production of sterile mixtures, following US Pharmacopeia standard (Health-system ASo, 2008), storing the drug in the refrigerator afterwards.
- Once inside the laminar flow hood, the outer part of the rubber stopper of the vial was disinfected, and the liquid from the 10 vials was withdrawn using the 3-ml syringe. Then, faricimab was passing into the sterile glass vial and finally, repackaged in Zero residual syringe 0.2 ml with sterile protective cap. Each syringe was filled with 0.08 ml of faricimab solution. Each vial of faricimab contains 29 mg of faricimab in 0.24 ml solution; so considering that 10 vials of faricimab were used for each batch prepared, 25 syringes of faricimab were obtained, resulting in 2.5 IVI doses of faricimab (0.08ml) from one vial of faricimab. The prepared syringes were firstly packed individually in a transparent plastic bag, then placed in a sterile photoprotector bag and stored refrigerated (2–8°C).
- Financial savings were calculated for the total number of IVI administered. If each faricimab vial had only been used for a single IVI procedure and the remaining drug discarded. Prices of Vabysmo® 120 mg/ml 1 VIAL 0,24 ml was taken from officially published price bulletins from the Spanish Medication Agency (Ex-Factory Price + VAT).

Results

- A total of 562 IVI (6mg/0,05 ml) of faricimab were administered to 180 patients with age-related macular degeneration during a 6-month period (1st May to 1st November 2024) in the Ophthalmology Department of the Hospital of Sagunto.
- If each Faricimab vial had only been used for a single IVI procedure and the remaining drug discarded, the cost of 562 IVI would have been 523.600€ considering that a faricimab vial is acquired for 935€. With the fractioning method, 224 vials were used for all the injections (three 2.5 doses prepared from a vial), costing 209.440€, reducing the single IVI's cost from 935€ to 374€. The estimated total cost savings between these 6 months, when the compounding was commissioned, was 314.160€ (60%). (Figure 1-3).

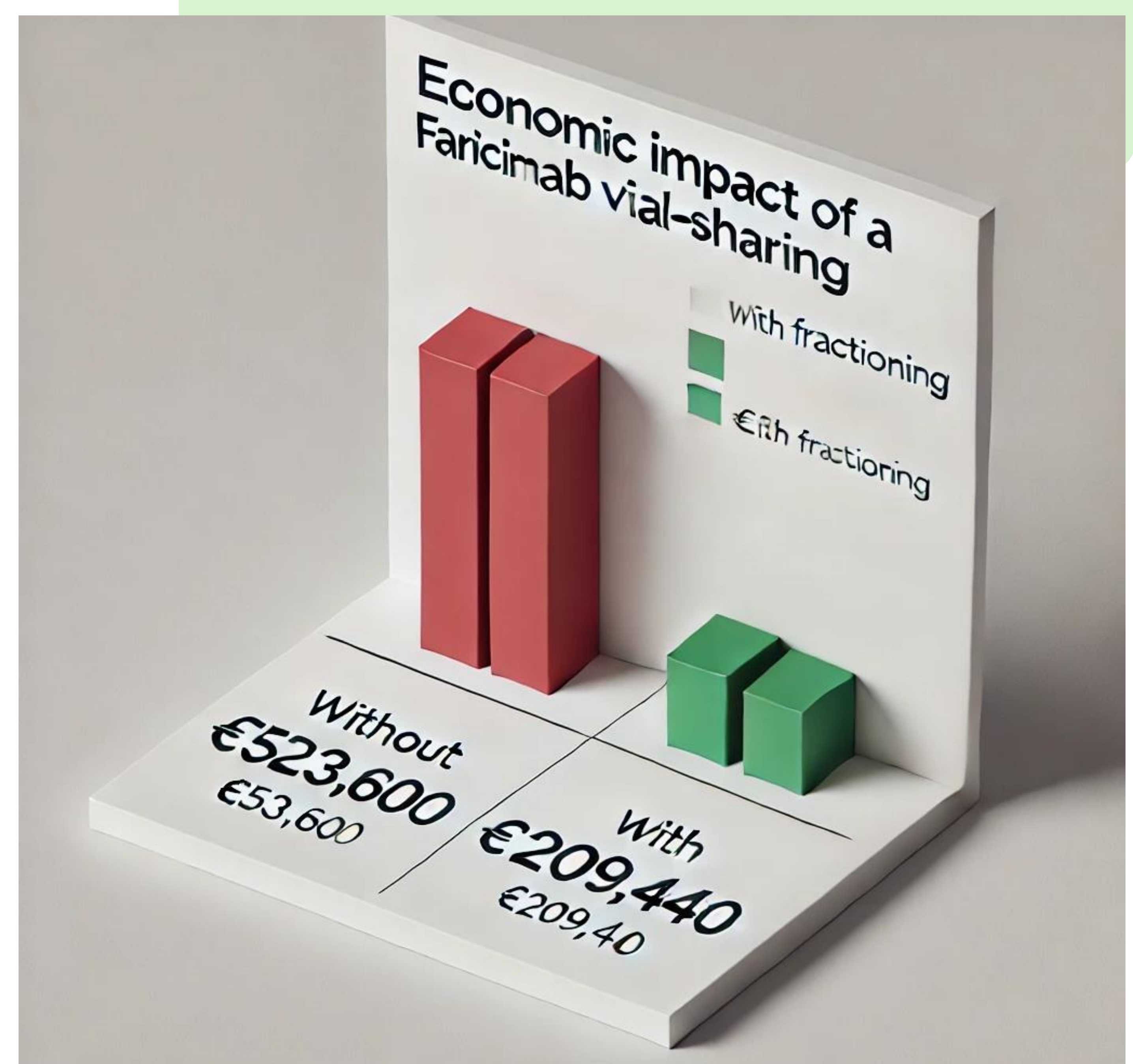


Figure 1. COST SAVINGS ASSOCIATED WITH FARICIMAB FRACTIONING

Conclusion and Relevance

- At a time when the cost of therapy is an unavoidable component in healthcare treatment decisions, faricimab vial sharing presents a promising strategy to improve the affordability of this innovative therapy without compromising clinical outcomes. By adopting faricimab vial sharing, healthcare systems can enhance AMD and DME patient access to this valuable treatment, leading to improved visual outcomes and reduced healthcare costs.