Impact of recent guidelines on ANTIEMETIC PRESCRIPTIONS in a French university hospital

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Introduction

Antiemetics are commonly prescribed in hospital, with serious side effects.

European Medicines Agency (EMA) and French medicines agency issued guidelines on **metoclopramide** (December 2013), **domperidone** (September 2014) and injectable **ondansetron** (September 2013), specifying indications and dosage restrictions, to reduce adverse effects.

We studied guidelines impact on prescription in our hospital, before and after publications.

Materials and methods

2 periods observed: June 2013 vs June 2015

- Prescriptions extracted from the prescription management system
- ❖ All hospital departments, except intensive care units, emergency department, and hematology (no computerized prescriptions).
- ❖ Collected data: type of drug, indication, dosage and duration of prescription.

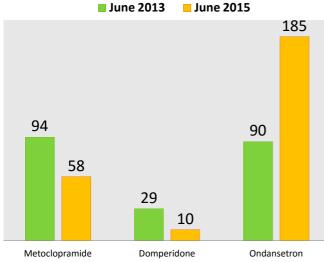
Results

June 2013 **219** prescriptions

VS June 20

267 prescriptions

NUMBER OF ANTIEMETIC PRESCRIPTIONS



Indications

Métoclopramide: Important number of off-label prescription

June 2013	June 2015
71.3% (n=67)	43.1% (n=25)

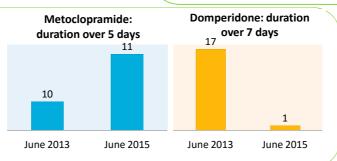
Dosage

• Usually not exceeded for metoclopramide and domperidone

%good prescriptions	June 2013	June 2015
Metoclopramide	91.6%	93.1%
Domperidone	92.9%	100%

Duration of prescription

- Not always respected for metoclopramide
- Decrease between these 2 periods for domperidone



Ondansetron injectable

Guidelines respected for patients over 75 years old

Conclusion

These guidelines are generally respected. We noticed a deviation of ondansetron utilization, particularly the oral form, for all type of nausea.

Even if "off-label" metoclopramide prescriptions decreased between these 2 periods, it is essential to remind prescribers to strictly follow approved indications and period of limitation

Prescribers general opinion is that these guidelines are difficult to apply, because of drug shortages.

