ORAL NONABSORBABLE ANTIBIOTICS:
A PROMISING APPROACH FOR PREVENTION OF RECURRENT CHOLANGITIS

C. GARCÍA-GUIJAS-GARCÍA[1], B. ESTEBAN-CARTELLE[1], E. GEMENO LÓPEZ[1], G. GÓMEZ GARCÍA[1], J. SÁEZ DE LA FUENTE[1], M. VÉLEZ-DÍAZ-PALLARÉS[1], J. FORTÚN-ABETE[2], A. POVEDA-ESCOLAR[1], A. ÁLVAREZ-DÍAZ[1].

[1]PHARMACY DEPARTMENT, HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARIO RAMÓN Y CAJAL- IRYCIS, MADRID, SPAIN.
[2]INFECTIOUS DISEASES DEPARTMENT, HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARIO RAMÓN Y CAJAL- IRYCIS, MADRID, SPAIN.

BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Recurrent cholangitis frequently affects patients with biliary and hepatic comorbidities

Associated with very high risk of severe infections

THE USUAL APPROACH:
Short antibiotics cycles at symptom onset

OUR OFF LABEL ALTERNATIVE:
Formulation of oral nonabsorbable antibiotics (ONA) in suspension containing:

Colistine 1.3%
Nystatin 4.095%
Tobramycin 1.56%
in distilled water and carboxymethylcellulose

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

1. **To evaluate effectiveness of oral nonabsorbable antibiotics**
   ↳ Defined as less episodes of recurrent acute cholangitis
2. **To describe adverse reactions to the treatment**

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Observational retrospective study in a third-degree hospital

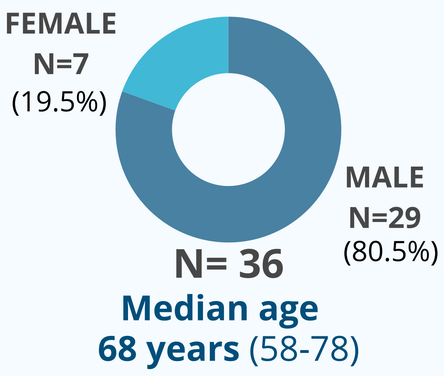
- Inclusion criteria: patients with recurrent cholangitis who received ONA treatment between **November 2018** and **August 2025**, with more than one ONA pharmacy dispensation
- Sociodemographic, clinical and analytical data were collected from the Electronic Medical Record (**HCIS**) and the Pharmacy Dispensing Program (**Farmatools®**)

Number of episodes from the initial diagnosis to the study date
(exitus or treatment discontinuation were registered as end date if applicable)

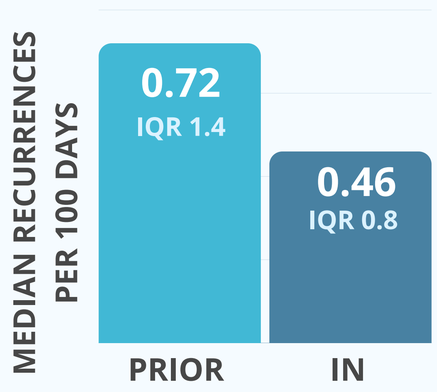
→ **Median of recurrences per 100 days prior to ONA vs. in-treatment with ONA**
Statistically significant differences between the two periods were assessed using the **Wilcoxon test** for nonparametric variables, considering **total patients, sex, and treatment duration** (<1 year vs. ≥1 year)

- Patients' **tolerability** to the suspension was also registered, and whether it prompted any discontinuation

RESULTS



- The median follow-up time was **40** (7-72) **months** prior to ONA vs. **8** (4-16) **months** once initiated.
- Out of the 36 patients, **23** (63.8%) presented at least one recurrence of acute cholangitis in-treatment with ONA



- **Reduction of median episodes per 100 days after ONA start was statistically significant** (p=0.015)
- No statistically significant differences were observed between **sexes** (p>0.05)
- Recurrences per 100 days did significantly **increase beyond 12 months of treatment** (p<0.05)

- Out of the 36 patients, **7** (19.4%) reported adverse events: **gastrointestinal** (n=6) and **cutaneous** (n=1). There was one registered case of treatment discontinuation by patient decision due to severe diarrhea.

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

- **Oral nonabsorbable antibiotics significantly reduce acute cholangitis recurrences with an acceptable safety profile**
- **As its effectiveness appears to decrease beyond 12 months of treatment, further studies are advisable to confirm long-term effectiveness**

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