DI-088

THE SWITCH FROM ORIGINATOR TO BIOSIMILAR GROWTH HORMONE: PATIENTS' EXPERIENCES

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Introduction

- In 2014 our hospital introduced the biosimilar growth hormone (BGH) to all patients due to the large difference in costs between originator and biosimilar growth hormone
- The switch was conducted in cooperation between the departments of Internal Medicine, section endocrinology, Paediatrics and Pharmacy
- Stakeholders (board of our hospital, patient council and the individual patients) were informed about the switch
- We investigated the experiences of patients that use BGH after the switch

Objective
The objective of the conducted study was to investigate the experiences of the patient before, during and after the switch to biosimilar growth hormone (Omnitrope®).

Material and Methods

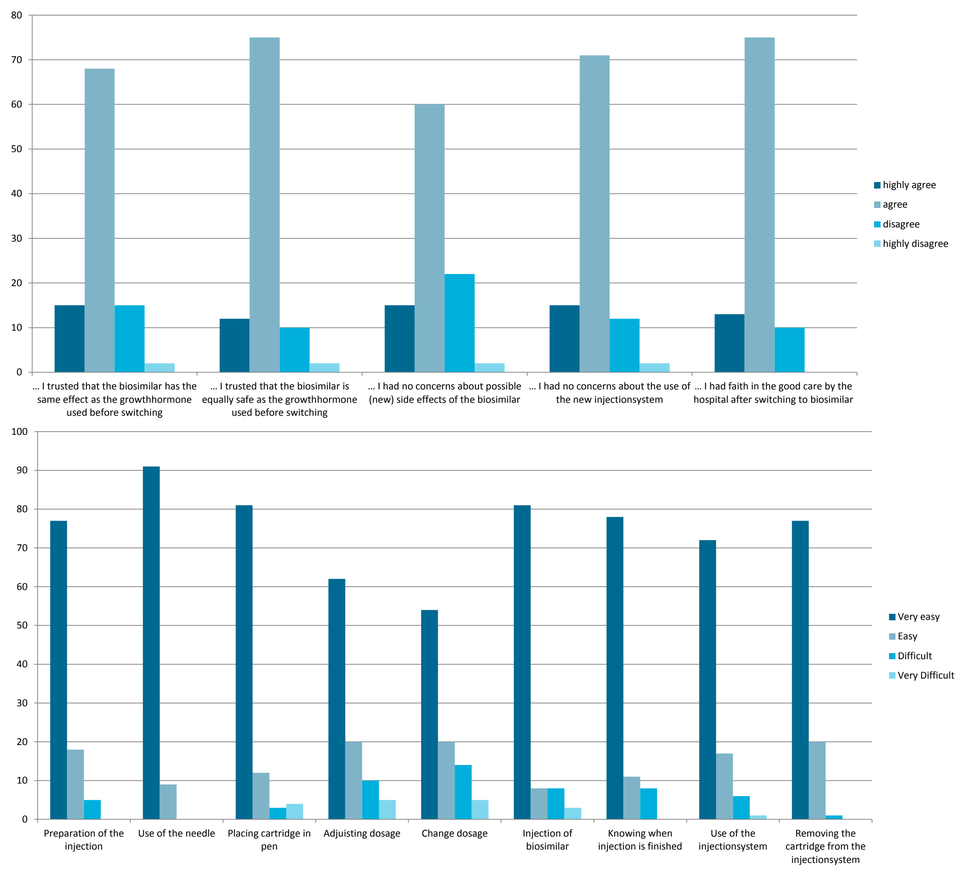
- To get more insights about the patients' experiences a quantitative evaluation was conducted.
- We have designed a questionnaire because this is the first study conducted in this field.
- The questionnaire was designed after discussion with different stakeholders (medical professionals, nurses, pharmacist)
- The questionnaire was sent in April 2016 so patients had over one year of experience in the use of biosimilar growth hormone.
- The questionnaire contained the following topics:
  - Problems before switching to biosimilar
  - Education by the Radboudumc before, during and after switching
  - Efficacy of biosimilar growth hormone
  - Possible adverse effects due to biosimilar growth hormone
  - The use of the new injection system (SurePal®)

- All patients that were switched to biosimilar growth hormone were informed by a letter about this study
- Patients could decide whether or not to participate in the study
- Patients could fill in the questionnaire on paper or online
- Anonymity was guaranteed during the study

Results

- 207 adult patients received the letter to participate in this study and 79 patients (38.1%) completed the questionnaire.
- Responders and non – responders did not differ in age, gender, co-medication, duration of use of growth hormone

- 93% of the patients were satisfied by the counseling that was provided by the medical professionals and nurses
- 95% of the patients indicated that individual training on the new injection system had been conducted
- 98% of the patients was confident in using the new injection system



Discussion and Conclusion

- Patients were satisfied with the switch to biosimilar growth hormone.
- Patients scored the switch with 8 / 10
- Questionnaire was sent > 1 year after switch with possible introduction of bias by remembering
- Good stakeholder management is quintessential
- Financial benefit for our hospital was considerable

Conclusion
Patients were satisfied with the switch to biosimilar growth hormone. There were few side effects and the minor problems that were encountered could be solved. Extensive counseling before switching patents to biosimilar is of great help!

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H01 - Pituitary and hypothalamic hormones

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