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Background

Anti-TNF monoclonal antibodies such as infliximab effectively treat inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Currently they are recommended after failure or contraindication of corticosteroid/immunosuppressive therapy. The use of infliximab's biosimilars is an important question due to the economy of health cost and in the objective of improving health care

Objectives

- Evaluate the patients treated by the reference product's knowledge about biosimilars
- Assess the number of patients who would accept switching to a biosimilar
- Realize an economic analysis about the switch

Methods

Evaluate the patient's knowledge about biosimilar

Give them the missing information

Collect the patient's opinion about the switch

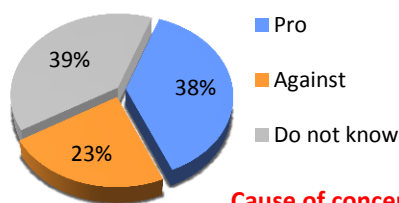
Transmission of the information to the prescribers

Follow-up of the prescriptions during the next cures

Economic analysis of the data

Results

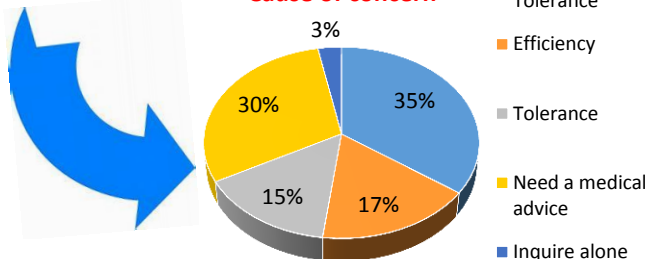
Patient's opinion about switching to biosimilar



- Interviewed population : 33 women / 31 men (average age 44 years old)
- 92 % of patients had never received any information about biosimilars
- Among 64 patients, 15 were against a switch to biosimilar, 25 had no opinion and 24 were favourable to the switch

However, in only 6 of the 24 patients in favor of the switch, the therapeutic modification was carried out by the doctor

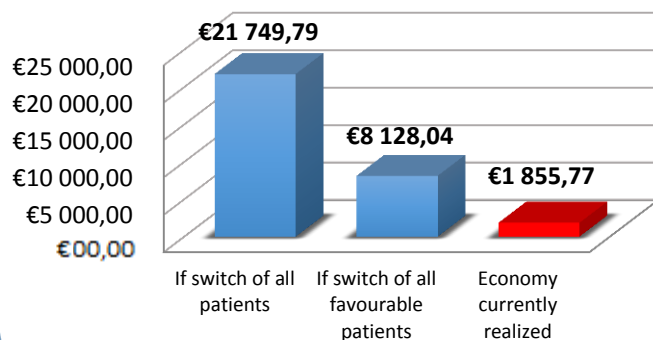
Cause of concern



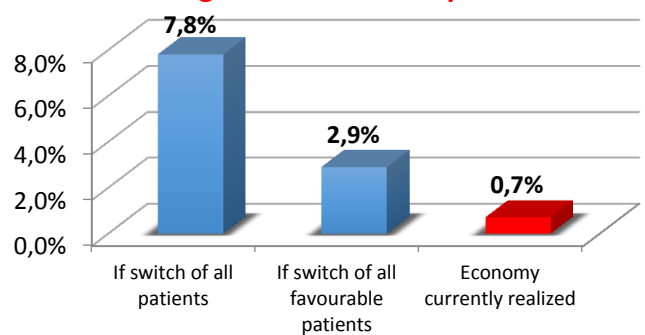
Concerning the doubts emitted by the patients:

- 68% relating to the efficiency and / or the tolerance of the biosimilar compared to the Reference product
- 30% want to talk to their doctor
- 1 patient decided to inquire by himself

Potential cost saving in € per year



Praticable economy in % of the budget assigned to Reference product



- Over the year, the achieved switches allowed to save 1,856 € (out of 8,128 € possible if the patient's opinions were respected), or 0.7% of the Reference product service budget.
- If all patients switched to biosimilar, a saving of 21,750 € could be realized

Discussion and Conclusions

- The investment of the pharmacy in the daycare clinic of the gastroenterology allowed a saving of 1,856 € per year, or 0,7% of the budget devoted to the reference product.
- That said : More than a third of the patients were favorable to a biosimilar relay → possible savings of € 8128 per year, or 2.9% of the budget dedicated to biosimilars. An explanation for this is the lack of transmission of information to the prescriber.
- Finally, concerning patients who are reluctant or undecided about the relay, the main reasons given concern the tolerance and / or efficiency of the biosimilar. This encourages us to increase our efforts to inform patients about these new specialties and to consider setting up a pharmacist position in this service to provide specific information.

