

EVALUATION OF COMPLIANCE AND TOLERABILITY IN NAÏVE PATIENTS AFFECTED BY IDIOPATHIC PULMONARY FIBROSIS (IPF) AND TREATED WITH PIRFENIDONE.



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BACKGROUND

Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a rare disease with significant morbidity and mortality, with a 18.07/100,000 prevalence in our Region. Pirfenidone (Esbriet[®], InterMune) is an orally administered antifibrotic drug approved for treatment of mild-to-moderate IPF1. Pirfenidone is generally well tolerated, the most common side effects being effects on the gastro-intestinal (GI) tract and photosensitivity. However, side effects may partly offset treatment benefits and reduce compliance.

PURPOSE

To assess side effects (tolerability) and compliance in IPF (naïve). patients receiving pirfenidone.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In this observational prospective study, adherence was examined in patients treated between September 2013 and September 2014. Side effects and treatment compliance were recorded in a database. Adherence data were compared with the incidence of side effects occurred in the studied population.

RESULTS

34 IPF patients were evaluated during a 12 month follow-up:

Study population (# 34)	
Male	30 (88%)
Female	4 (12%)
Mean Age (yrs)	70 (±16.5)

Comparison between prescription and dispensation data showed that 19 (56%) of patients received 100% of the prescribed therapy, 22 (65%) received more than 90%, and only 3 (9%) received less that 50%.

	Therapy adherence	
	Compliant population (# 19)	Non-Compliant population (# 15)
Interruption (#)	6	2
Interruption Causes:		
progression disease	3	
toxicity	1 (neoplasia related)	1 (photosensitivity)
death	1	
missed		
not specified		1
Suspension (#)	0	3
Suspension causes:		
toxicity		2 (photosensitivity), 1 (gastrointestinal effects)
smoke		1

Side effects led to only 15% of patients discontinuing pirfenidone and were more evident during the first six months of therapy, as observed in clinical trials.

CONCLUSIONS

Tolerability: most side effects were manageable with supportive measures
Compliance: overall it was good. A closer pharmacists/physicians interaction could further improve patient compliance.

REFERENCE:
 1. EMA summary of product characteristics