

# Efficacy and safety of propranolol in infantile haemangioma

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## Background

Infantile Hemangiomas are common vascular tumors in children. Only 10-15% should be treated due to any vital, functional or aesthetic complication. Oral corticosteroids have been the primary treatment of choice. However, excellent outcome with Propranolol has been reported, and using it as first-line treatment is still a matter of debate.

## Purpose

To evaluate the short-term efficacy and safety of Propranolol in the treatment of infantile hemangioma.

## Material and methods

A retrospective study was carried out in the Pharmacy Service of the Hospital Clínico Universitario de Valladolid between June 2009 and August 2012. All patients with infantile hemangioma treated with Propranolol during the study period were included

## Results

32 patients (20 female) have been treated with Propranolol during an average of 9 months. Patients started treatment with an average age of 6 months (1-15). 9/32 of the hemangiomas had segmental distribution and 23/32 were located in their head and neck. 4/32 of patients were previously treated with oral corticosteroids with little improvement. 8/32 of patients achieved complete remission after 11±5 months of treatment. One of these patients had to discontinue treatment due to an increase in the size of the lesion. In the remaining patients the use of Propranolol accelerated the involution of the hemangiomas and decreased colour, brightness and growth. Adverse events were mild and self-limiting. Only 2 patient discontinued treatment due to hypotension.

## Conclusions

- Only a quarter of patients achieve complete remission
- The average duration of treatment until complete remission is 11 month
- Only one patient didn't achieve any improvement
- The use of propranolol is a safe alternative for treating hemangiomas.

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