

CHEMOTHERAPY-INDUCED NAUSEA AND VOMITING IN BREAST CANCER PATIENTS: EFFECTIVENESS AND SAFETY OF ANTIEMETIC TREATMENT

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BACKGROUND

Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting are two of the most frequent manifestations that appear in cancer patients and that significantly affect the course of their disease.

PURPOSE

The objective of this study is to describe the antiemetic therapy used in patients with breast cancer treated with chemotherapy, determine the degree of adaptation to the guides for good clinical practice for the management of this type of complications, analyze the effectiveness of those treatments and known adverse reactions that patients may suffer because of antiemetic or chemotherapy drugs.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A descriptive, transversal and observational study of one month. The study included patients from day hospital with breast cancer who had received at least one previous chemotherapy cycle. Variables were collected through a questionnaire completed by the patient and with the software of the pharmacy service. To determine the adequacy of treatment followed the recommendations of the guidelines ASCO, MASCC and NCCN.

RESULTS

Of 47 patients, 32 agreed to participate in the study, with a mean age of 50.7 years (SD = 9.8).

On day 1 post-chemotherapy, 34.4% of treatments were not adapted to the guidelines and on days 2, 3 and 4 this increased to 46.9%.

	Patients
Acute nausea	31,3%
Acute emesis	15,6%
Late nausea	43,8%
Late vomiting	18,75%

The number of patients with anticipatory nausea and vomiting was lower.

The complete response to antiemetic treatment (absence of nausea, vomiting and need for antiemetic rescue medication) was achieved in 50% of patients.

Adverse events manifested mainly by patients were fatigue, weakness (75.0%) and insomnia (56.3%).

CONCLUSIONS

The lack of adequacy together with the results obtained of inefficiency of the treatment does that we require new therapeutic strategies that they should allow to obtain a better control of the phenomenon of the emesis.