



ETHANOL CONTENT IN CHEMOTHERAPY

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BACKGROUND

❖Ethanol is used as an excipient to enhance the solubility of substances partially soluble in water.

A unit of alcohol: 10ml ó 8g

Amount of ethanol that a healthy adult can metabolize in **1 hour.**





For our study we use:

- Gemcitabine (Actavis® 2,000mg/50ml): 9.875mg ethanol/mg drug.
- Paclitaxel (Gp-pharm® 300mg/50ml): 65.83mg ethanol/mg drug.

Spanish Pharmaceutical Association

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European Commission



- Affects ability to drive and use machines
- Interferes with other drugs
- Be careful with alcoholics, pregnant or breast-feeding women, children or patients with liver disease or epilepsy

Pharmacy Department evaluates a new IV drug

concentrate for solution for infusion vials

BETTER

lyophilized powder vials

- More convenient.

- Easier to handle

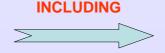
- Decrease errors.

OBJETIVES

To describe the amount of ethanol given to oncology patients on gemcitabine (GMZ) and paclitaxel (PTX) on each administration.

METHODS

Retrospective study of **6 months** (03/2012-09/2012)



Pacients who had received gemcitabine or paclitaxel

Data collection was made through the electronic prescription

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Drug	Patients	N administrations	Dose (mg)	g ethanol/dose	
Gemcitabine	69	6.4	1553.8 (700-2300)	15.34 (6.91-22.71)	
Paclitaxel	63	6.02	149.78 (72-438)	9.86 (4.74-28.83)	

CONCLUSIONS

- Ethanol given to these patients may be compared to moderate alcohol consumption.
- >We have to pay special attention because ethanol is infused directly into the vein in a short time.
- >We have to be cautious with alcoholic people, liver disease, epilepsy and polymedicated patients.
- Patients should be advised about toxic effects of ethanol. They should also be warned not to drive after chemotherapy