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Linezolid adverse reactions. A one year overview

J. Hernández, L. Serrano de Lucas, B. Baza, Z. Baskaran, S. Sautua, A. de Basagoiti, A. Belaustegi, I. Bilbao, E. Rodriguez, M. Castaño.
Hospital Universitario Cruces, Pharmacy, Barakaldo (Bizkaia), Spain.
javier.hergoiko@gmail.com

Linezolid is an antimicrobial approved for the treatment of hospital or community acquired pneumonia and complicated skin and soft tissue infections due to gram positive bacteria. Its use, though effective, is not free from possible harm.

Objective

To describe the incidence and nature of the adverse reactions related to linezolid, that take place before and after the 28 days limit established in the EMA label information.

Methods

All the treatments with linezolid along one year (september 2011-september 2012) were registered. Data sources were the electronic chart as well as the electronic prescription program. Adverse reactions related with linezolid were recorded when mentioned.

Results

Cruces University Hospital
889 beds
51.633 annual admissions

4 treatments early interrupted due to potential interactions with antidepressants

Median treatment duration: **8** days (1 to 73 days)

<28 days treatment duration

19 **adverse reactions**

14 hematologic toxicity
2 diarrhoea
1 skin reaction
1 vomits
1 asthenia

Median treatment duration: 12 days (3 to 27 days)

7 of them required transfusion

>28 days treatment duration

8 **adverse reactions**

7 hematologic toxicity
1 asthenia

Median treatment duration: 37 days (32 to 56 days)

5 of them required transfusion

Conclusions

The incidence of hematological toxicity related to linezolid is higher in long duration treatments. Attention should be paid to hematic cell counts from the beginning of the treatment since hematologic adverse reactions are not limited to treatments lasting for more than 28 days.