

OVERDOSE OF DARBEPOETIN IN PATIENTS WITH CRONIC KIDNEY FAILURE. ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT WITH PHARMACIST INTERVENTIONS

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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE



- Darbepoetin is used to treat symptomatic anemia associated with chronic kidney failure (CKD) and to increase hemoglobin (Hb) concentration to a level no higher than 12 g/dl.
- Patients should be closely monitored to ensure that the lowest authorized effective dose of darbepoetin adequately controls the anemia-related symptoms while maintaining a hemoglobin concentration below or equal to 12 g/dl.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES



- To improve the safety of darbepoetin treatment, this study aimed to identify patients with CKD and hemoglobin levels exceeding 12g/dl.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

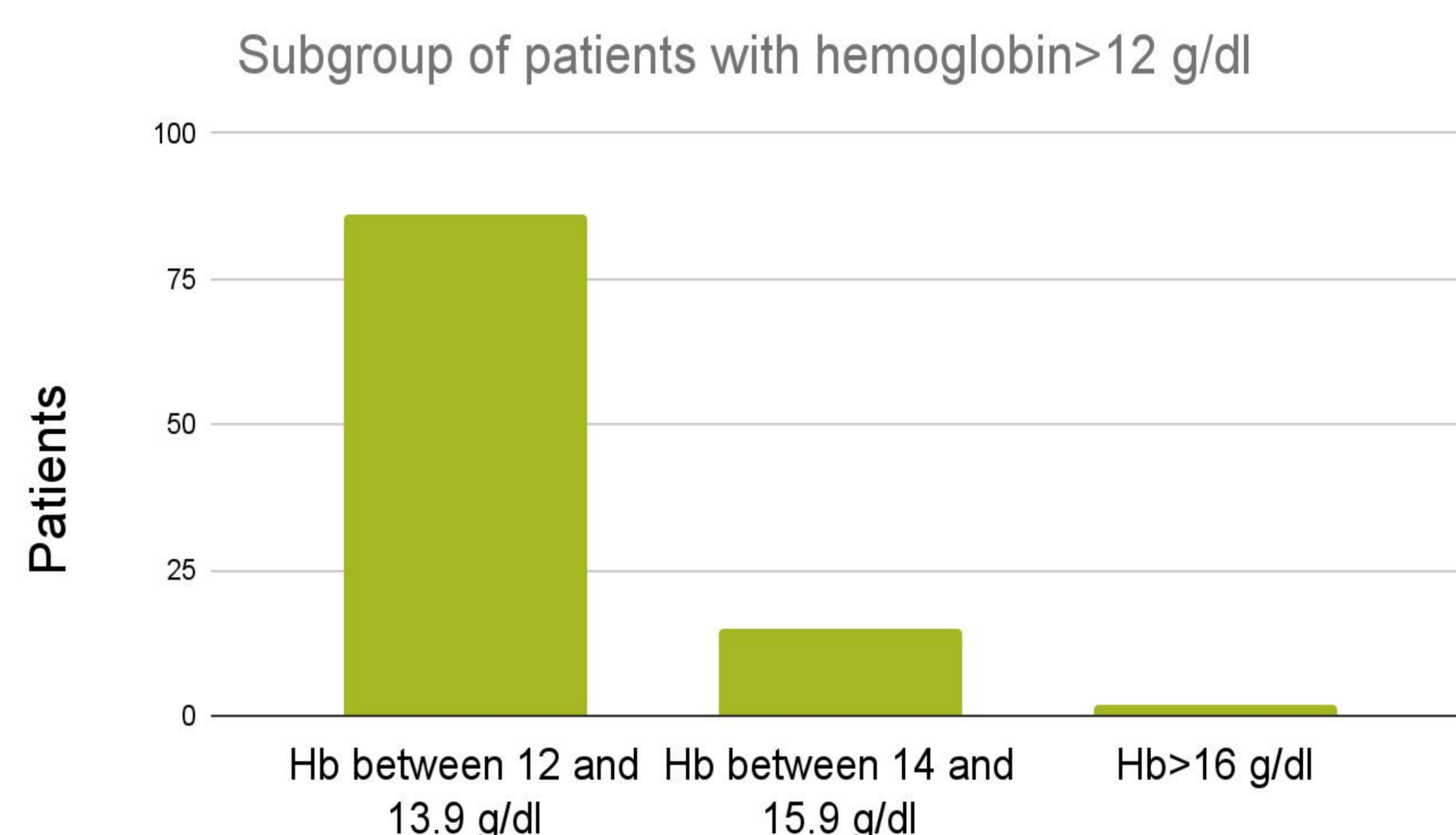


- An observational, descriptive, and retrospective study was conducted to analyze CKD patients who received treatment with darbepoetin from January 2022 to August 2023.
- Data collected included gender, date of birth, darbepoetin dosage in mcg, and hemoglobin value in g/dl.
- For this study, we retrieve the data from Electronic Health Records.

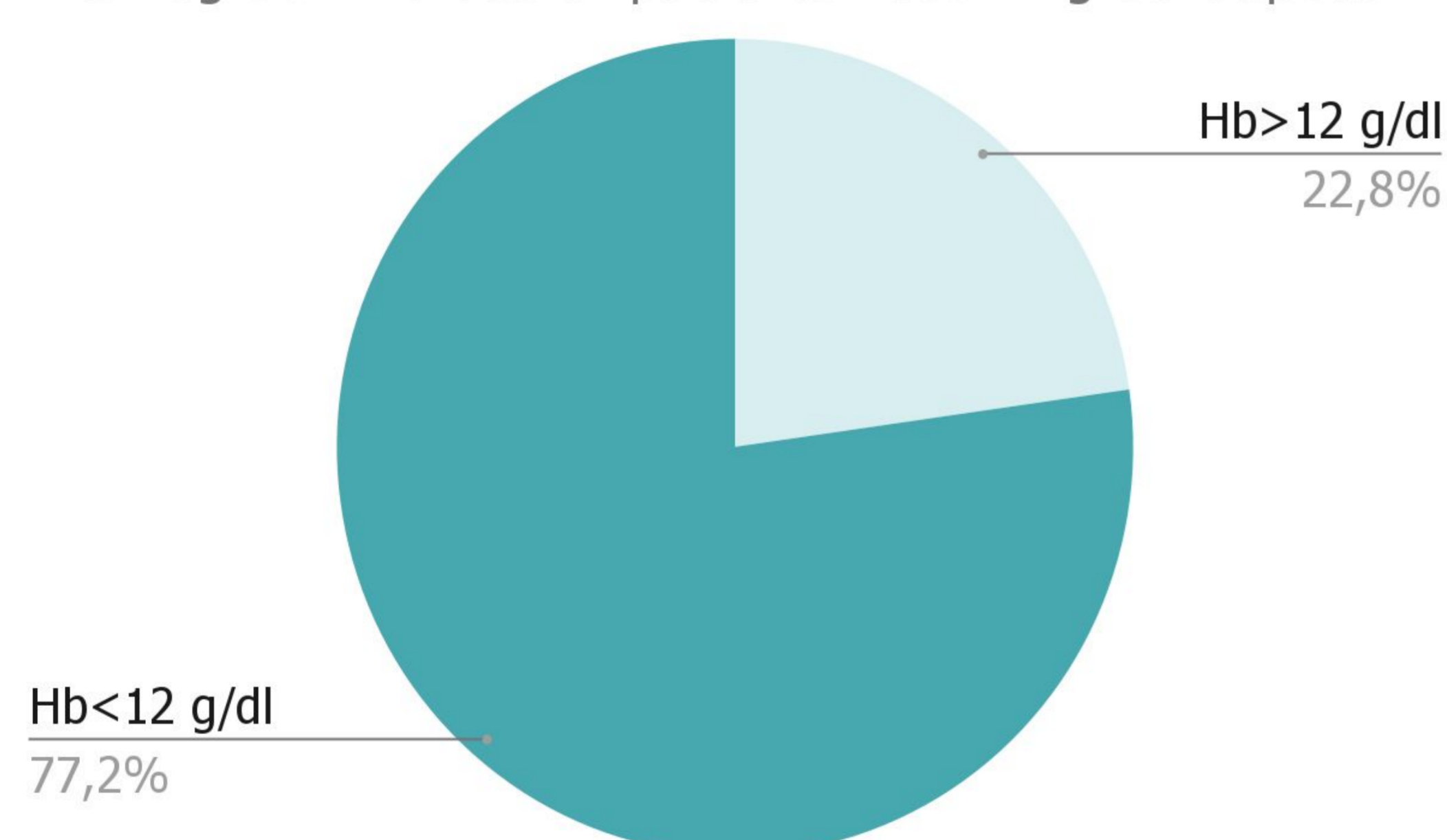
RESULTS



Patients treated with darbepoetin (N)	567
Mean age	72
Proportion of man	56.08%



Hemoglobin values of patients receiving darbepoetin



3/129 patients with high hemoglobin values still received a dose of darbepoetin higher than 100 mcg weekly

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

- According to the product information document, there is room to improve the safety of darbepoetin treatments as many patients continue treatment with darbepoetin even when the target hemoglobin level has been reached.
- It is crucial to closely monitor patients starting darbepoetin treatment and adjust doses to achieve the desired hemoglobin level safely.
- When patients pick up their medication from the hospital pharmacy, analytical hemoglobin values must be checked, and the attending pharmacists can communicate with nephrologists if patients do not fulfill the treatment criteria for darbepoetin.

Disclosure: None of the authors of this study have to disclose any possible financial or personal relationships with commercial entities that may have a direct or indirect interest in the subject matter of this study.

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