



Background

- Folic acid (FA) is indicated for the treatment of folate deficiency, chronic intestinal absorption disorders and supplementation during pregnancy
- Folinic acid (FAi) is indicated for the prevention and correction of hematotoxicity caused by cotrimoxazole, pyrimethamine and methotrexate
- However studies have shown that (FA) and (FAi) are equally effective in preventing methotrexate-related hematotoxicity.

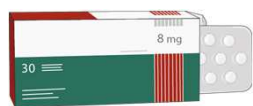
Objective

- Assessment of the compliance of prescriptions with the indications for FA and FAi at our university hospital centre (UHC).

Methods

- Retrospective study on nominative deliveries in 2022 on 2 establishments of our UHC.
- Verification of the indication : prevention or supplementation whether it was combined with hematotoxic treatment.
- Search for vitamin B9 (VB9) deficiency prior to initiating treatment.

Results



Total prescription = 266

84% of the prescriptions complied with marketing authorisation indications

FA group :
n = 150 (56 %)

FAi group :
n = 116 (44 %)

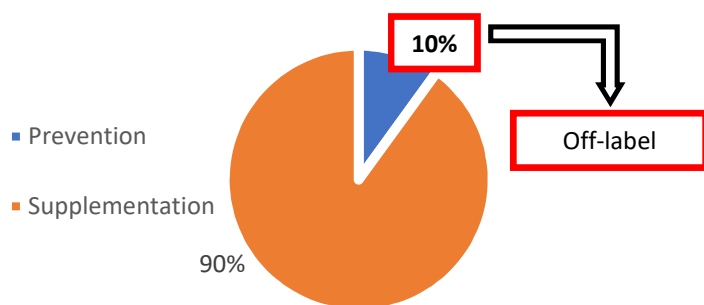
VB9 dosage was performed in **42%** (n = 63)
 → Deficiency observed in **57%** (n = 36) of cases

VB9 dosage was performed in **20%** (n=23)
 → Deficiency observed in **22%** (n=5) of cases

Supplementation for **90%** (n = 135)

Prevention for **10%** (n = 15)
 → Cotrimoxazole n = 11
 → Methotrexate n = 4

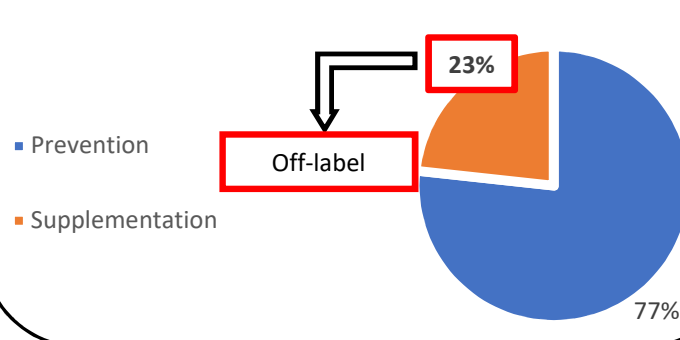
Fig 1 : Repartition for FA between prevention and supplementation



Supplementation for **23%** (n = 27)

Prevention for **77%** (n = 89)
 → Cotrimoxazole n = 85
 → Pyremethamine n = 3
 → Methotrexate n = 1

Fig 2 : Repartition for FAi between prevention and supplementation



Conclusion

- 16% of the prescriptions do not correspond to the MA indications
- Efficacy of FA has not been demonstrated in the prevention of Cotrimoxazole hematotoxicity
- It should be noted that the unit cost of FAi is higher than FA: failure to comply with the indications may result in higher treatment costs
- A disagreement between prescribers is observed through the heterogeneity of prescriptions
- To reduce the rate of non-compliant prescriptions, consultation between doctors and pharmacists needs to be developed to reach a consensus.

References

Shea B et al. Folic acid and folinic acid for reducing side effects in patients receiving methotrexate for rheumatoid arthritis. Cochrane Database Syst Rev. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD000951.pub2.

Key-words : Pharmacy Practice ; Folic Acid Deficiency ; Drug Therapies