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REAL-WORLD USE OF BULEVIRTIDE: A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY ON QUALITY OF LIFE, ADHERENCE, AND SAFETY IN A COHORT OF ADULT PATIENTS WITH HEPATITIS DELTA VIRUS

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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Bulevirtide is the only **anti-HDV** drug currently approved in Europe and it requires a complex self-management.

Patients can benefit from a specific **Patient Education Program** (PEP) to ensure better therapeutic compliance, optimal adherence, and continuous monitoring of the drug's effectiveness and safety.

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

Evaluate the **effectiveness**, **safety**, and **adherence** in a cohort of adult patients with Hepatitis Delta Virus infection treated with bulevirtide at a university hospital between July 2023 and September 2024.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

At the Hospital Pharmacy Unit, HDV patients received a specific training from clinical pharmacist on the preparation, administration, and storage of bulevirtide.

Clinical pharmacist investigated:

- the effectiveness of the treatment, in terms of **Quality of Life** (QoL), using the EuroQoL-5D questionnaire and comparing the average values at the first and last drug dispensation;

- the safety of the drug, through spontaneous reporting of **suspected adverse reactions** (ADRs);

- the adherence to therapy, by measuring the **Proportion of Days Covered** (PDC).

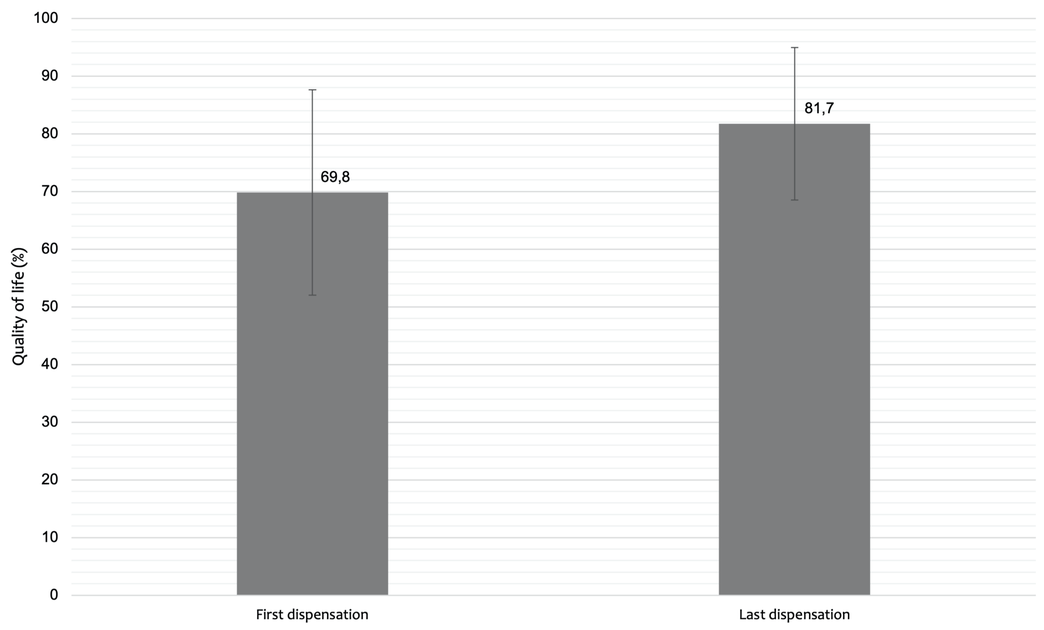
RESULTS

From July 2023, 31 patients (19 females and 12 males) began treatment with bulevirtide. The average age at the start of treatment was 55.9 ± 9.7 years.

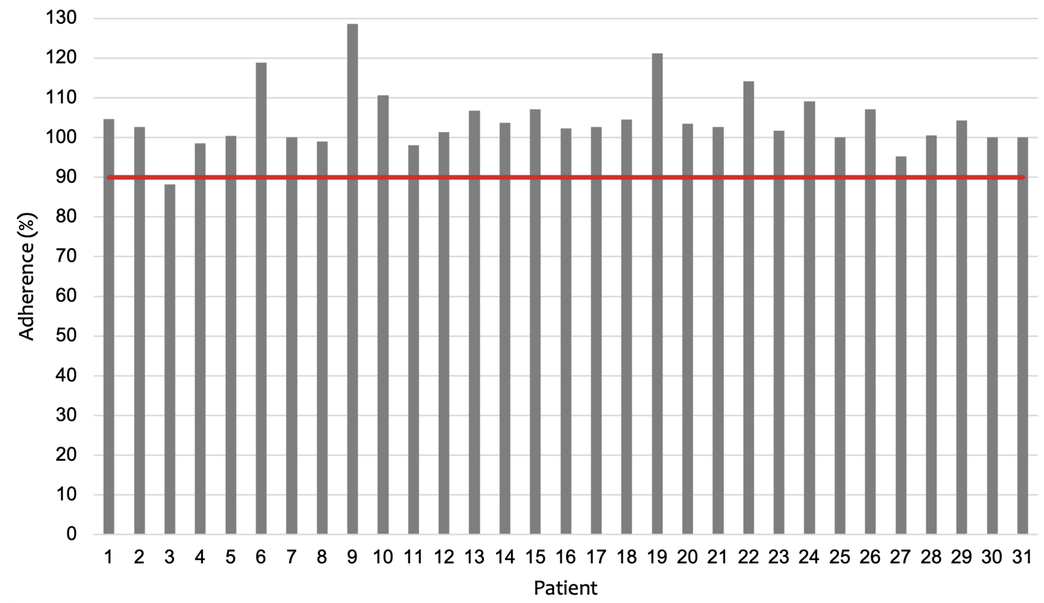
Expected ADR	Unexpected ADR
10% (3/31): reaction at the injection site (redness, swelling, itching) **(very common)**; tiredness, headache **(common)**	**6%** (2/31): abdominal pain, diarrhea, dizziness
6% (2/31): nausea **(common)**	**3%** (1/31): weight loss, blurred vision, myalgia, astenia

Twelve out of 31 patients (**39%**) reported at least one **suspected adverse reaction**.

Since beginning the therapy, patients' **QoL** has significantly increased (**+11.9%**, **$p<0.05$**), reaching 81.7/100.



93% of patients achieved optimal adherence rates, with a **PDC ≥ 90%**.



CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

Bulevirtide treatment showed a **significant improvement in patients' QoL** and a **good safety profile**: despite 39% reporting suspected adverse reactions, these were non-severe and mostly expected.

Therapy **adherence was optimal**, partly due to the support of the dedicated PEP.

Although four patients discontinued treatment, the results suggest that bulevirtide is an **effective and well-tolerated therapy**.

Long-term studies are needed to confirm these findings and to monitor the prolonged safety of the drug.

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