Non-ionic contrast media: clinical relevance of different CM-products

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Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
It was the aim of the assessment to analyze the many different non-ionic (monomer) contrast media (NI-CM) products on the actual clinical relevance of their differences in order to give advice for a more concerted purchasing of CM.

In the context of the increasing economic pressure upon hospital-budgets, considerations on central purchasing of pharmaceuticals arise. The assessment was carried out (and paid by) the biggest Austrian hospital cooperation (25% of hospital market). Seven different NI-CM are used in routine care.

Authors' conclusions
Osmolality, nephrotoxicity, viscosity, hydrophilicity and electric charge are the criteria along which the CM can be differentiated.

The analyzed NI-CM show similar pharmacokinetic and dynamic attributes.

All analyzed NI-CM are safe in their application. The incompatibility and adverse reactions are minimal, the diagnostic accuracy at a comparable high level.

If the iodine concentration and the (intravasal) application protocol are similar, there are only minimal or not reproducible differences concerning safety and diagnostic quality. There are no clinical relevant differences between the seven (analyzed) different non-ionic monomer CM-products.

Along valid definitions, the products are me-too preparations - under patent protection.

In reaction to the many me-too pharmaceuticals and the enormous price differences between EU-countries, the purchasing units of hospitals have started to react: quite interesting models evolve.

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