Sevelamer for the treatment of hyperphosphatemia in patients with chronic renal failure


Record Status
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Citation

Authors' objectives
The aim of this overview is to assess the usefulness of sevelamer in patients with end-stage renal failure, both for hemodialysis and pre-dialysis patients.

Authors' conclusions
Sevelamer is an effective drug to control the metabolic calcium-phosphorus product alterations present in chronic renal failure. The extent of control is similar to that observed with calcium binders, but it has the advantage of inducing less hypercalcemia, which is important since it reduces the incidence of ectopic calcifications. It is associated to a decrease in vascular calcifications scores. In addition, it reduces total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol levels up to 30%. However, up to one fifth of the patients treated cannot continue treatment due to intolerance or lack of compliance. To date, there is no information on overall mortality and survival, nor data on the rate of reduction of hospitalizations for sevelamer. There are also no studies related to quality of life. The cost of the treatment in our country is 6 to 19 times higher than conventional treatments. Although sevelamer shows some additional benefits, it has not yet been demonstrated that these benefits would have a significant clinical impact. For these reasons, and its high cost, sevelamer cannot be presented as a replacement to conventional treatments, specially when there is no severe hypercalcemia.

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