

SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF IRON DEXTRAN INFUSIONS IN CHILDREN WITH INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE AND IRON DEFICIENCY ANEMIA

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Abstract 97

Background: Iron-deficiency *anemia* is a frequent complication in children with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Clinicians may avoid the use of intravenous iron-dextran (IVFeDx) due to the risk of anaphylaxis. Halpin, et al (JPEN 6:9-11, 1982) reported the use of single dose infusions of Imferon® (Merrell-National Laboratories) IVFeDx in 6 children with severe IBD. IVFeDx preparations are now available from many manufacturers including INFeD® (Schein Pharmaceutical, Inc) and Dexferrum® (American Regent Laboratories, Inc.). **Aims:** 1.) To determine the safety of IVFeDx in children with IBD. 2.) To determine the efficacy of single dose IVFeDx in correcting Fe deficiency *anemia*. **Methods:** Prospective trial of Fe replacement in 28 children with IBD and Fe deficiency *anemia*. 51 infusions were given between 1988 and 1998. A test dose of 25mg was given prior to the IVFeDx infusion. The test dose and infusion were administered by an advanced practice nurse (APN) who observed for adverse events (AE) such as coughing, respiratory distress, facial flushing, chills, rigors and back pain. Infusion doses were calculated using the formula described by Halpin. INFeD® was used from 1988 to October, 1996. Dexferrum® was used from October 1996 to January 1997, at which time INFeD® was restarted. **Results:** In 51 infusions of IVFeDx, 9 AE to the test dose terminated therapy. There were 4 AE during 44 (9%) INFeD® infusions and 5 AE during 7 (74%) Dexferrum® infusions. All AE responded to IV Benadryl (1 mg/kg) and IV fluids. 11 patients received multiple IVFeDx with INFeD® without AE. 3 patients who had AE to Dexferrum® subsequently received INFeD® without adverse sequelae. Hemoglobin pre-infusion was 9.4 ± 1.4 gm/dl and post infusion was 12.2 ± 1.5 gm/dl ($p < 0.001$). **Conclusion:** Infusion of INFeD® is a safe and effective therapy. Clinicians must recognize that the rate of AE may vary widely depending on FeDx formulation.

POSTERS

Intestine/Colon/IBD