

Drug-related problems with methotrexate in daily practice

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1. Abstract

Background

Low dose methotrexate (LDMTX) is a proven effective therapy to treat several chronic inflammatory diseases. It is most conveniently administered orally, but it is possible to administrate MTX subcutaneously at home.

Objectives

The main objective was to develop a semi-structured interview and to select questionnaires for the assessment of the compliance, the safety, the self-management and the level of information and instruction of patients self-administering MTX subcutaneously. The second objective was to analyse and describe a case of MTX-intoxication with oral MTX for low-dose therapy of psoriasis.

Methods

Patients Compliance was assessed with the Beliefs about Medicine Questionnaire BMQ, the Compliance Questionnaire Rheumatology CQR and a semi-structured interview. The interview examined the safety and self-management with MTX.

Results

Recruitment at the University Hospital Basel yielded two patients. They both reached a CQR score of 87.7 and a BMQ-score for necessity of 4.8 and 4.2 and concerns of 1 and 3.6 respectively, demonstrating high self-reported compliance and high beliefs in the necessity of the medication as well as moderate concerns.

Conclusion

The pilot study tends to reveal that patients with self-injection of MTX feel safe and have good compliance. The CQR turned out to be an inadequate instrument to detect compliance.