



NSW
Therapeutic
Advisory
Group Inc.

Advancing
quality use
of medicines
in NSW

Group Discussion: EPTIFIBATIDE PROTOCOL

Date: December 2018

Question:

NSW TAG received an enquiry from a member about the availability of a protocol for eptifibatide.

NSW TAG and TAGNet members were asked if they had a protocol for eptifibatide and if so, would they mind providing.

Background:

Eptifibatide was approved for addition to the formulary at a cardiologist's request (restricted to patients who by angiographic criteria are at high risk for stent thrombosis).

Alternative agents would be abciximab (now discontinued by the manufacturer) and tirofiban.

Feedback from staff in the hospital's cathlab is that other cathlabs are not using eptifibatide (though this could possibly be because they all still have stock of abciximab?). It is possibly just a cardiologist's preference. A comparison of tirofiban and eptifibatide has not been undertaken although it was mentioned that eptifibatide had more well-defined dosing for patients at high risk of stent thrombosis. However cost may be an issue as more vials per day may be used (depends on patient's weight, renal function and duration.)

Usage of abciximab has been low and eptifibatide likely to be similarly low (hence the cathlab want a protocol).

Responses:

3 Responses were received from:

Liverpool

We don't use Eptifibatide at Liverpool.

I think the Cardiologists here are a lot more familiar with tirofiban and that's probably the main reason for the preference. A few years ago we had an Interventional cardiologist from New Zealand and we had eptifibatide (Integrilin™). Hardly anyone else used it and it went out of date.

Storage is more difficult with eptofobatide as it requires refrigeration and there are two strengths instead of one, making it more complex to handle.

Also dosage adjustment for renal impairment is required with moderate impairment and not just severe.

With the discontinuation of Abciximab, I also asked our Interventional Neuroradiologist about what they will use and they will be moving to tirofiban also (off-label of course).

St Vincent's

We don't use it here.

Murrumbidgee (MLHD)

We do not have a protocol I'm aware of for administration of eptifibatide during PCI. Currently we only have the tirofiban on formulary (abciximab was previously on the formulary when available). Correspondence was sent to the cardiologists in June to get their feedback with the pending discontinuation of abciximab). At the time, we only had one reply (but it seemed to be on behalf of the small group we have here). It indicated they were comfortable managing with tirofiban at the moment and we'd just need to slightly increase inventory of it onsite at Wagga Wagga.

Responses received as at 28 November 2018

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