

Inhibitor Working Party

Membership

Dr P Collins (Chair)
Prof D Hart (secretary)
Dr E Chalmers
Dr C Hay
Dr R Liesner
Mr B Palmer
Dr S Rangarajan
Dr K Talks
Dr M Williams

The working party reformed in March 2011

There have been 4 meetings held to date.

Activities

Revision of UKHCDO Inhibitor guidelines

The revised guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of inhibitors in congenital haemophilia A and B have been ratified by the UKHCDO Advisory group and the BCSH Thrombosis and Haemostasis Task Force. They are currently undergoing peer review with the British Journal of Haematology.

Guidelines on acquired coagulation factor inhibitors are being developed as a separate document.

Inhibitor surveillance in previous untreated patients

UKHCDO has undertaken a national procurement exercise which has involved a substantial number of patients changing factor VIII concentrate. This was done on the assumption that if patients change from one factor VIII concentrate to another the risk of inhibitor formation would be low. Given the available data at the time this was a reasonable assumption but close surveillance has been undertaken around the time of the switching to ensure that if any unexpected inhibitors occur these will be identified early.

All centres have been asked to submit information on all inhibitor tests taken both before and after the new contract came into effect so that the effect of switching can be followed closely. It is important that both negative and positive inhibitor tests were reported in patients who did and did not switch product to ensure that any observed

changes were not due to increased test frequency. It is recommended that all patients who switch products should have an inhibitor test done both before a switch and twice in the 6 months after a switch. The data are being analysed and to date do not suggest any increase in inhibitor formation related to switching.

The data on inhibitors and switching will be combined with the revised quarterly data collected by the NHD that allows a prospective assessment of risk factors for inhibitor development in PTPs. This data collection has been on-going for 3 years.

Collection of data on first 50 exposure days

It has been decided to stop collecting this data because the level of completion was too low to be of value.

Analysis of data held by NHD

The working party has collaborated with the NHD to undertake an analysis into inhibitor formation in patients with severe haemophilia A dependent on age. This work has shown that inhibitors increase in patients over the age of 60 years and has now been published. Investigation of potential reasons for this finding is being considered.

Translational immunological projects

Collaboration with studies investigating the immunology of inhibitor formation is being considered.

Publication and presentations

The incidence of factor VIII inhibitors throughout life in severe hemophilia A in the United Kingdom.

Hay CR, Palmer B, Chalmers E, Liesner R, Maclean R, Rangarajan S, Williams M, Collins PW.

Blood 117:6367-6370, 2011

Initial results of the factor VIII switching surveillance have been presented by Dr Hay at EAHAD and will also be presented at the WFH meeting in July 2012.

Dr Peter Collins
Chairman, Inhibitor Working Party
June 2012