



Renal Medicine

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LMcT/ANT

Investigation into the development of Pure Red Cell Aplasia (PRCA) in patients with renal failure receiving exogenous erythropoietin (EPO).

More information at: www.edren.org – RESEARCH

PRCA secondary to anti-EPO antibodies is becoming increasingly recognised in renal patients receiving exogenous EPO. It is thought that this may be due to the immunogenicity of recombinant EPO products. Most cases have been associated with both subcutaneous EPO administration and epoietin alfa. The effects are significant in that these people become profoundly anaemic and transfusion dependent, remaining so for months. We need more information in order to identify a cause and any precipitating factors to guide future EPO prescribing and administration.

Professor Neil Turner (Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh), Dr Iain Macdougall (Kings College Hospital, London) and Dr Judith Marsh (St Georges Hospital, London) are working in collaboration to research this phenomenon. Dr Anna Thompson is an Edinburgh trainee who will be collecting the information. We are seeking the following information:

1) Patient information

Confirmed or strongly suspected cases will be investigated. The information required will include details about the patient's relevant past medical history, medication, epo type/dose/duration, concurrent illnesses, investigations (including, haematology, immunology, virology, bone marrow, CXR, CT scans), treatment and outcomes.

Permission is sought from the patient and Anna will be visiting parent hospitals to gather information from case notes and staff where possible.

2) Bone marrow slides

The bone marrow slides where available will be sent to Dr Judith Marsh (Consultant haematologist, St Georges Hospital, Cranmer Terrace, London, SW17 0RE) to be examined. This will ensure standardised reporting and allow comparison of results. The slides will be returned to the parent hospital.

3) Serum

Currently the only independent lab testing for EPO antibodies is Professor Casadevall's lab in France, testing is also available by the drug companies in Germany or the USA. It is planned to set up a service in the UK and Dr Iain Macdougall and Professor Mike Kemeny are developing a radioimmuno-precipitation assay at Kings College Hospital, London. In Edinburgh we hope to develop an ELISA assay reliable enough to provide a more widespread screening service in time. Dr Macdougall and Professor Turner are sharing positive control serum samples in order to set up a reliable service.

This information is confidential. The patient's initials and DOB will be recorded to prevent duplication of results only. No information will be passed on to any drug company without the consent of the patient and their doctor.

Funding for this project is coming from various sources including an unrestricted educational grant from Ortho Biotech.

Further information is available from our website: <http://www.edren.org>

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