TITLE: Ondansetron for Post-Operative Nausea and Vomiting in Elderly Patients: Clinical Effectiveness and Safety

DATE: 08 August 2014

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of intravenous (IV) ondansetron for the prevention and treatment of post-operative nausea and vomiting in elderly patients?

2. What is the clinical evidence regarding the safety and harms of the use of IV ondansetron for the prevention and treatment of post-operative nausea and vomiting in elderly patients?

KEY FINDINGS

One randomized controlled trial was identified regarding the clinical effectiveness and harms of intravenous (IV) ondansetron for the prevention and treatment of post-operative nausea and vomiting in elderly patients.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2014, Issue 7), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2009 and July 28, 2014. Internet links were provided, where available.

The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.
RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials and non-randomized studies.

One randomized controlled trial was identified regarding the clinical effectiveness and harms of intravenous (IV) ondansetron for the prevention and treatment of post-operative nausea and vomiting in elderly patients. No health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses, or non-randomized studies were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

One randomized controlled trial\(^1\) was identified regarding IV ondansetron for the prevention and treatment of post-operative nausea and vomiting in elderly patients. This prospective, double blind, single centre study examined the efficacy of ondansetron and aprepitant in adult patients between the ages of 18 and 85 who underwent neurosurgery for greater than two hours. While no specific information regarding the outcomes was mentioned in the abstract, the authors postulated that the treatment regimen could be improved based on the results of the study and could result in a decrease of both the incidence and severity of post-operative nausea and vomiting.\(^1\)
REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

Health Technology Assessments
No literature identified.

Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses
No literature identified.

Randomized Controlled Trials


Non-Randomized Studies
No literature identified.

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Review Articles
