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## Ferric carboxymaltose versus iron sucrose complex in women with iron deficiency anemia: A randomized controlled trial

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**Aim:** To compare safety and efficacy of ferric carboxymaltose (FCM) with iron sucrose complex (ISC) regarding improvement in hematological parameters and side effects in women with iron deficiency anemia (IDA).

**Methods:** Prospective randomized controlled study conducted in Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology in a tertiary care hospital, Delhi. 60 women having iron deficiency anemia with Hb 6-8 g% were randomized 1:1 into two groups and were given 1000 mg parenteral iron. One group received intravenous 500 mg FCM on day 0 and 8. 200 mg iron sucrose complex was given in second group on alternate days for 5 doses. Hematological parameters: Hb, reticulocyte count, RBC indices, serum ferritin; Clinical parameters: Fatigue, dyspnoea on exertion and adverse effects were studied on day 0, 7, 14 and 28.

Results: Two FCM infusions vs. five ISC infusions were required. On day 28, Hb increment was  $\geq 3$  g% seen in 63.33% and MCV > 80 FL seen in 100% of FCM group vs. 0% and 43.33% in ISC group. FCM group had 3.17 g/dl increment in Hb vs. 1.9 g/dl in ISC group. Serum ferritin increased to 147 ng/ml in FCM group vs. 98 ng/ml in ISC group. Significant improvement in RBC indices and rectic count was seen in FCM group. Earlier and significant improvement in fatigability and dyspnoea on exertion was observed in FCM group. Both groups had similar safety profile except for thrombophlebitis was observed in 6.67% FCM group vs. 50.00% ISC group.

**Conclusion:** Intravenous ferric carboxymaltose is more effective and safer than iron sucrose complex in treatment of iron deficiency anemia.

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