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Drug use evaluation of cabergoline in lactation inhibition: A retrospective study

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Background: Breastfeeding is encouraged globally due to its established benefits. However, inhibition of lactation might be indicated for the well-being of the mother or baby. The aim of the study is to conduct a drug use evaluation of cabergoline for lactation inhibition.

Method: A retrospective cross-sectional drug use evaluation study was conducted at Women's Hospital, Qatar. Cabergoline prescriptions written over a 4 months period between 1st September 2013 and 31st December 2013 were used. Patients who received cabergoline prescription for lactation inhibition within 10 days of delivery or abortion were included. A descriptive data analysis was undertaken.

Results: Eighty five patients were included. The main use of cabergoline for lactation inhibition was stillbirth (50.6%), followed by abortion (27.1%) and neonatal death (12.9%). The remaining 9.4% of patients had alive babies, and the main reason for prescribing cabergoline to inhibit lactation was the use of medications by the mothers for their medical conditions (n=6). Appropriate prescribing was observed in 74.1% of the patients. However, out of all these reviewed patients, fourteen percent had hypertensive disorder, with almost sixty percent of them having uncontrolled blood pressure.

Conclusion: This drug use evaluation study found that cabergoline use in lactation inhibition was mainly for patients with stillbirth, abortion, and neonatal death. In mothers using medications for other medical conditions, benefits and risks of breastfeeding should be carefully balanced before prescribing cabergoline. Healthcare providers need to be informed regarding the appropriate dosage regimen of cabergoline and its safety in patients with uncontrolled hypertension.

Biography

Hyun Jung Koo has completed her PhD from Sungkyunkwan University, School of Pharmacy and Postdoctoral studies from Gachon University, Republic of Korea. She is the Assistant Professor of Korea National College of Agriculture and Fisheries, department of Medicinal and Industrial Crops. Her research interests have focused on discovery and identification of novel drug sources from medicinal plants and investigate molecular mechanisms of diseases. She published more than 20 papers in reputed journals.

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