

5-18-2018

Iron isomaltoside is superior to iron sucrose in increasing hemoglobin in gynecological patients with iron deficiency anemia.


Richard Derman
Thomas Jefferson University

Eloy Roman
Lakes Research

Gioi N. Smith-Nguyen
Grossmont Center for Clinical Research

Maureen M. Achebe
Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dana Farber Cancer Institute

Lars L. Thomsen
Pharmacosmos A/S
Follow this and additional works at: <https://jdc.jefferson.edu/gha>

 Part of the [Hematology Commons](#), and the [Obstetrics and Gynecology Commons](#)
See next page for additional authors

[Let us know how access to this document benefits you](#)

Recommended Citation

Derman, Richard; Roman, Eloy; Smith-Nguyen, Gioi N.; Achebe, Maureen M.; Thomsen, Lars L.; and Auerbach, Michael, "Iron isomaltoside is superior to iron sucrose in increasing hemoglobin in gynecological patients with iron deficiency anemia." (2018). *Global Health Articles*. Article 10. <https://jdc.jefferson.edu/gha/10>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Jefferson Digital Commons. The Jefferson Digital Commons is a service of Thomas Jefferson University's [Center for Teaching and Learning \(CTL\)](#). The Commons is a showcase for Jefferson books and journals, peer-reviewed scholarly publications, unique historical collections from the University archives, and teaching tools. The Jefferson Digital Commons allows researchers and interested readers anywhere in the world to learn about and keep up to date with Jefferson scholarship. This article has been accepted for inclusion in Global Health Articles by an authorized administrator of the Jefferson Digital Commons. For more information, please contact: JeffersonDigitalCommons@jefferson.edu.

Authors

Richard Derman, Eloy Roman, Gioi N. Smith-Nguyen, Maureen M. Achebe, Lars L. Thomsen, and Michael Auerbach

REFERENCES

- [1] Yoshida K, Sanada M, Shiraishi Y, et al. Frequent pathway mutations of splicing machinery in myelodysplasia. *Nature*. 2011;478(7367):64–69.
- [2] Barraco D, Elala YC, Lasho TL, et al. Molecular correlates of anemia in primary myelofibrosis: a significant and independent association with U2AF1 mutations. *Blood Cancer J*. 2016;6(5):e416.
- [3] Patnaik MM, Vallapureddy R, Yalniz FF, et al. Therapy related chronic myelomonocytic leukemia (CMML): molecular, cytogenetic, and clinical distinctions from de novo CMML. *Am J Hematol*. 2018;93(1):65–73.
- [4] Tefferi A, Lasho TL, Patnaik MM, et al. Targeted next-generation sequencing in myelodysplastic syndromes and prognostic interaction between mutations and IPSS-R. *Am J Hematol*. 2017;92(12):1311–1317.
- [5] Tefferi A, Finke CM, Lasho TL, et al. U2AF1 mutations in primary myelofibrosis are strongly associated with anemia and thrombocytopenia despite clustering with JAK2V617F and normal karyotype. *Leukemia*. 2014;28(2):431–433.
- [6] Tefferi A, Finke CM, Lasho TL, et al. U2AF1 mutation types in primary myelofibrosis: phenotypic and prognostic distinctions. *Leukemia*. 2018 Feb 27. doi: 10.1038/s41375-018-0078-0. [Epub ahead of print].
- [7] Vardiman JW, Thiele J, Arber DA, et al. The 2008 revision of the World Health Organization (WHO) classification of myeloid neoplasms and acute leukemia: rationale and important changes. *Blood*. 2009;114(5):937–951.
- [8] Gangat N, Mudireddy M, Lasho TL, et al. Mutations and prognosis in myelodysplastic syndromes: karyotype-adjusted analysis of targeted sequencing in 300 consecutive cases and development of a genetic risk model. *Am J Hematol*. 2018 Feb 8. doi: 10.1002/ajh.25064. [Epub ahead of print].
- [9] Greenberg PL, Tuechler H, Schanz J, et al. Revised international prognostic scoring system for myelodysplastic syndromes. *Blood*. 2012;120(12):2454–2465.
- [10] Wu SJ, Tang JL, Lin CT, et al. Clinical implications of U2AF1 mutation in patients with myelodysplastic syndrome and its stability during disease progression. *Am J Hematol*. 2013;88(11):E277–E282.
- [11] Li B, Liu J, Jia Y, et al. Clinical features and biological implications of different U2AF1 mutation types in myelodysplastic syndromes. *Genes Chromosomes Cancer*. 2018;57(2):80–88.

Received: 15 March 2018 | Accepted: 19 March 2018

DOI 10.1002/ajh.25094

Iron isomaltoside is superior to iron sucrose in increasing hemoglobin in gynecological patients with iron deficiency anemia

To the Editor:

Iron deficiency anemia (IDA) is highly prevalent in women. The main risk factors for IDA include a low intake of iron, poor absorption, and

high iron requirements such as those observed during pregnancy or with menorrhagia.¹

Treatment includes controlling the bleeding and replenishing lost iron. Oral iron remains the front-line standard primarily because of its convenience and low cost. However, international guidelines recommend intravenous (IV) iron as the preferred route when there is intolerance of oral iron, limited absorption, or when there is a high iron need.^{2–4}

Iron isomaltoside is one of the newer IV iron formulations able to supply a complete replacement dose in a short, single visit in most patients.

Herein, we present data from a subpopulation of gynecology patients with IDA from a previously reported trial.⁵ The objective was to compare the efficacy and safety of iron isomaltoside to iron sucrose in gynecology patients (corresponding to 48.5% of those in the larger trial) with IDA and who were intolerant of, or unresponsive to oral iron therapy or who would benefit from rapid iron repletion.

Patients were randomized 2:1 to iron isomaltoside (Monofer®, Pharmacosmos A/S, Holbaek, Denmark) or iron sucrose (Venofer®, Vifor Pharma, Glattbrugg, Switzerland).⁵

The primary efficacy endpoint was the proportion of patients with a hemoglobin (Hb) increase of ≥ 2 g/dL from baseline (ie, dosing) at any time from week 1 to 5. Secondary efficacy endpoints were time to Hb increase ≥ 2 g/dL, and change in Hb, s-ferritin, transferrin saturation (TSAT), and total quality of life (QoL) score (Short Form 36 [SF-36] questionnaire). Safety endpoints included the number of patients who experienced any adverse drug reaction (ADR). The primary endpoint was tested for non-inferiority. If the 95% confidence interval (CI) was above 0, this was evidence of superiority in terms of statistical significance at the 5% level. Remaining endpoints were only tested for superiority.

Two hundred forty-eight patients were randomized to either the iron isomaltoside (164) or iron sucrose group (84). Baseline characteristics were comparable between the treatment groups. The mean cumulative dose of iron isomaltoside was 1687 (SD: 381) mg and of iron sucrose 1154 (SD: 368) mg. The difference in cumulative doses is reflective of the ability to administer a larger dose of iron isomaltoside in a single setting resulting in fewer administrations and a shorter treatment period to reach the desired iron dose.

The primary analysis was conducted on both the full analysis set (FAS) ($N = 237$) and the per protocol (PP) analysis set ($N = 223$).

There were more responders in the iron isomaltoside group compared to the iron sucrose group. A risk difference of 13.9%-points in the FAS and 14.3%-points in the PP set as well as non-inferiority of iron isomaltoside to iron sucrose was observed.

A predetermined test for superiority was performed, confirming superiority of iron isomaltoside over iron sucrose (FAS: $P = .033$; PP: $P = .031$).

In the FAS, the largest increase in Hb from baseline to any time from week 1 to week 5 (mean [SD]) was 2.83 (1.33) g/dL in the iron isomaltoside group and 2.34 (1.22) g/dL in the iron sucrose group. Increases in Hb in the PP analysis set were consistent with superiority

of iron isomaltoside over iron sucrose (2.88 [1.30] vs. 2.39 [1.20] g/dL). For both FAS and PP, the difference between iron isomaltoside and iron sucrose was statistically significant ($P < .001$).

Analysis of time to Hb increase ≥ 2 g/dL showed a statistically significantly shorter time to Hb increase ≥ 2 g/dL in the iron isomaltoside group compared with the iron sucrose group with a hazard ratio (HR) (95% CI) of 1.71 (0.19; 0.89) ($P = .0026$).

The change from baseline in Hb and TSAT was statistically significantly higher in the iron isomaltoside compared to the iron sucrose group at each time point ($P \leq .0005$ and $P \leq .0001$, respectively) (Figure 1), and s-ferritin was statistically significantly higher with iron isomaltoside at weeks 1 to 4 ($P \leq .002$) (Figure 1).

In both treatment groups, the SF-36 scores in the eight health domains improved from baseline to weeks 2 and 5. There were no differences between the groups.

The ADR profiles in the treatment groups were similar to the ones observed in the main trial.⁵

One (0.6%) in the iron isomaltoside group experienced serious ADRs (serious adverse reactions [SARs]; dyspnea and pruritic rash) for which the patient was admitted to the hospital. On the day after receiving iron isomaltoside, the subject experienced pruritic rash. There was no involvement of mucous membranes or fever. The event had a duration of 11 days and the patient made full recovery. No SAR was observed in the iron sucrose group.

In this trial, we evaluated the efficacy and safety of IV iron isomaltoside in comparison to iron sucrose in gynecological patients with IDA. The women were primarily pre-menopausal with a history of menorrhagia but were otherwise healthy.

For the primary endpoint, the proportion reaching a Hb increase from baseline of ≥ 2 g/dL at any time between week 1 and 5, both non-inferiority and superiority was confirmed for iron isomaltoside compared to iron sucrose. Furthermore, a significantly shorter time to Hb increase ≥ 2 g/dL was observed with iron isomaltoside. For all biochemical efficacy parameters (Hb, s-ferritin, and TSAT) measured, more rapid and/or greater improvements were found with iron isomaltoside. These findings are in agreement with results of the main trial.⁵

QoL improved in both treatment groups during the trial. In a previous trial including women with postpartum hemorrhage, a single dose of iron isomaltoside led to statistically significant differences in fatigue and depression scores, as well as in hematological and iron parameters, all favoring iron isomaltoside when compared with standard medical care.⁶

Treatment with iron isomaltoside and iron sucrose was generally well tolerated with $<1\%$ SARs.

In conclusion, iron isomaltoside was more effective than iron sucrose in ensuring a rapid improvement in Hb and other iron-related parameters. Larger doses of iron isomaltoside can be administered within a shorter time to achieve full iron correction. Iron isomaltoside administration was well tolerated in gynecological patients with IDA.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to thank all the investigators and trial personnel for their contribution to the trial, the statistical support from

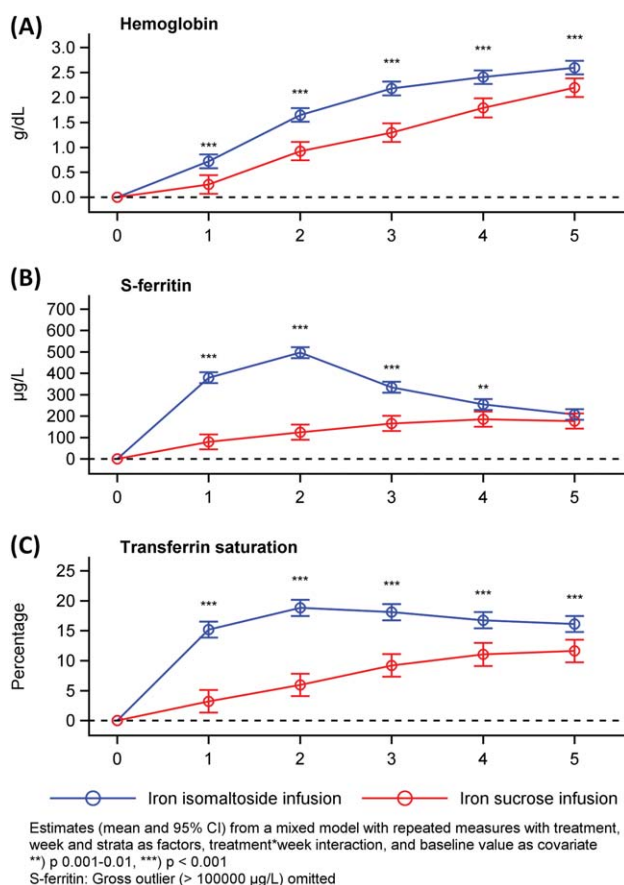


FIGURE 1 Change in hemoglobin, s-ferritin, and transferrin saturation over time by treatment group, full analysis set. CI: confidence interval

Jens-Kristian Slott Jensen, Slott Stat, and the medical writing assistance of Eva-Maria Damsgaard Nielsen in editing the manuscript. Eva-Maria Damsgaard Nielsen is employed at Pharmacosmos A/S.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Lars L. Thomsen is employed by Pharmacosmos A/S, and the investigators/institutions received a fee per patient. Richard Derman has been a consultant for Pharmacosmos A/S. Michael Auerbach has received research funding from Pharmacosmos A/S and AMAG Pharmaceuticals and has consulted for Pharmacosmos A/S, AMAG Pharmaceuticals, and Luitpold Pharmaceuticals. Maureen M. Achebe served on a scientific advisory board for AMAG Pharmaceuticals. Eloy Roman and Gioi N. Smith-Nguyen have no further conflicts of interest.

Richard Derman¹, Eloy Roman², Gioi N. Smith-Nguyen³,
 Maureen M. Achebe⁴, Lars L. Thomsen⁵, Michael Auerbach⁶

¹Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

²Lakes Research, Miami Lakes, Florida

³Grossmont Center for Clinical Research, La Mesa, California

⁴Division of Hematology, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, Massachusetts

⁵Department of Clinical and Non-clinical Research, Pharmacosmos A/S, Holbaek, Denmark

⁶Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, District of Columbia

Correspondence

Richard Derman, MD, MPH, FACOG, Associate Provost, Global Affairs,
Director, Global Health Research, Professor, Obstetrics and Gynecology,
Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA.
Email: richard.derman@jefferson.edu

Funding information

Pharmacosmos A/S

REFERENCES

- [1] WHO Global database on anaemia, Center for Disease Control and Prevention. *Worldwide Prevalence of Anaemia 1993–2005*. Spain: World Health Organization; 2008. Available at: http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/43894/9789241596657_eng.pdf;jsessionid=DE0809C8C8FB930B8F4B38088937C629?sequence=1
- [2] Dignass AU, Gasche C, Bettenworth D, et al. European consensus on the diagnosis and management of iron deficiency and anaemia in inflammatory bowel diseases. *J Crohns Colitis*. 2015;9(3):211–222.
- [3] KDIGO Clinical Practice Guideline for Anemia in Chronic Kidney Disease, 2012, Vol.2. http://www.kdigo.org/clinical_practice_guidelines/pdf/KDIGO-Anemia%20GL.pdf. Accessed December 21, 2017.
- [4] Gasche C, Berstad A, Befrits R, et al. Guidelines on the diagnosis and management of iron deficiency and anemia in inflammatory bowel diseases. *Inflamm Bowel Dis*. 2007;13(12):1545–1553.
- [5] Derman R, Roman E, Modiano MR, Achebe MM, Thomsen LL, Auerbach M. A randomized trial of iron isomaltoside versus iron sucrose in patients with iron deficiency anemia. *Am J Hematol*. 2017;92(3):286–291.
- [6] Holm C, Thomsen LL, Norgaard A, Langhoff-Roos J. Single-dose intravenous iron infusion or oral iron for treatment of fatigue after postpartum haemorrhage: a randomized controlled trial. *Vox Sang*. 2017;112(3):219–228.

Received: 16 March 2018 | Accepted: 19 March 2018

DOI 10.1002/ajh.25093

Applicability of and potential barriers preventing allogeneic stem cell transplant in sickle cell patients treated outside a sickle cell program

To the Editor:

Despite improvement in the life-expectancy of children with sickle cell disease (SCD), there has been little change in the mortality rate among adult patients in the last few decades.^{1,2} Cardiopulmonary complications remain the major causes of death in these patients. Although hydroxyurea reduces the acute sickle-related events, it does not appear to protect against the cardiopulmonary complications.³ Whether newer agents such as crizanlizumab and L-glutamine change the outcome of the disease remain to be determined.

Allogeneic hematopoietic progenitor cell transplant (HPCT) is currently the only cure available to patients with SCD. However, its applicability was limited by the lack of related human leukocyte antigen (HLA)-matched donors. Only 18% of SCD patients have HLA-identical

related donors.⁴ The use of post-transplant high dose cyclophosphamide to eradicate allo-reactive T cells and reduce graft-versus-host disease has expanded the donor pool.

The majority of SCD patients are managed outside a comprehensive sickle cell program, in the real world. The applicability of and barriers preventing allogeneic HPCT from being offered to these SCD patients remain to be determined. We, therefore, carried out a survey of a random cohort of adult patients who received their care at a medical center that does not have a dedicated sickle cell program.

A total of 99 adult patients were identified. The distribution of the SCD was: 75 HbSS, 19 HbSC, and 5 unknown. There were 49 males and 50 females. Median age was 26 years (range 17–65). Forty-two (42.4%) of these patients received hydroxyurea. To determine how many SCD patients would be eligible for allogeneic HPCT, we first used the five SCD-related medical indications adopted for three multicenter studies (Clinicaltrials.gov Identifiers: NCT01565616, NCT02766465, and NCT03263559). These criteria, in addition to a diagnosis of SCD, were as follows: A history of stroke, at least two acute chest syndromes within two years, multiple hospitalization for painful crisis (>3 a year for two years), blood transfusion need of >8 units a year, and presence of pulmonary hypertension. The proportion of patients who were eligible for allogeneic HPCT based on these indications was 54.5% (95% confidence interval (CI): 44.75–64). This proportion increased to 58.6% (95% CI: 48.7–67.8) when we included two more criteria that have also been included in many single-center studies: A history of multiple priapism and multiple osteonecrosis. These data, therefore, indicate that a large proportion of adult SCD patients treated in the real world could potentially be candidates for allogeneic HPCT. By far, the SCD-related criteria most commonly met for these studies were multiple hospital admissions for painful crisis and high blood transfusion requirements, followed by pulmonary hypertension, multiple osteonecrosis, and stroke (Figure 1A). A previous study found that mortality among adult SCD patients was higher in those with >4 pain crises a year or a high organ severity score,¹ arguing for the utilization of allogeneic HPCT, particularly, in patients with frequent pain crises and end-organ damage.

Patients with high SCD-related comorbidities are more susceptible to transplant-related mortality after allogeneic HPCT. To determine the impact of SCD-related comorbidities on the applicability of allogeneic HPCT, we used the hematopoietic cell transplantation-specific comorbidity index (HCT-CI)⁵ to estimate the 2-year transplant-related mortality in these patients if they were to undergo allogeneic HPCT. The 2-year transplant-related mortality estimated by HCT-CI has been adjusted for age and transplant preparative regimen. A correlation was observed between the number of SCD-related comorbidities and the HCT-CI scores ($R = 0.3$; 95% CI: 0.04–0.52) ($P = .024$) (Figure 1B). This correlation persisted even when recurrent priapism and multiple osteonecrosis were added to the five SCD-related complications used in the multicenter studies (data not shown).

Based on the HCT-CI scores, these patients were divided into low-risk, intermediate-risk, and high-risk groups. Less than half of the patients (41.4%; 95% CI: 29.6–54.2) belonged to the low-risk, 24% (95% CI: 15–36.5) intermediate-risk, and 34.5% (95% CI: 23.6–47.3)