

Assessment of Dexrazoxane Availability, Use, and Procurement Strategies in Belgian Hospitals: Results from a National Survey

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Objective

The objective of this survey conducted by the Belgian Oncology Pharmacy Practitioners was to assess the availability, use, and procurement strategies of dexrazoxane among Belgian hospitals. Dexrazoxane is used to prevent anthracycline-induced cardiotoxicity or extravasation injuries in cancer patients. Understanding the current practices regarding its management is crucial to ensure optimal availability and cost-effectiveness.

Methods

The survey was distributed via Google Forms to 62 hospitals across Belgium. If a hospital responded multiple times, responses were subsequently deduplicated. The survey collected data on the current stock of dexrazoxane, past stocking practices, usage frequency, reasons for stocking or not stocking and preferred procurement methods. The survey covered the period from 2017 to 2023.

Results

Response rate was 100%. The survey revealed that 48% (N=30) of hospitals currently have dexrazoxane in stock, 15% (N=9) no longer had it, and 37% (N=23) never stocked it. Regarding quantities, 27 hospitals had one kit, one hospital had three kits, and two hospitals had half a kit. To secure availability, 24 hospitals participated in joint procurement, 1 relied on larger hospitals, 1 hospital transferred patients to facilities with available dexrazoxane and 1 hospital chose never to use it. The maximum annual usage for all hospitals together was 9 kits per year, the minimum usage was 0 kits per year with an average annual usage of 5.2 kits per year. Since 2017, 62 kits expired across 39 hospitals, resulting in a financial loss of €484,716. For future procurement, 83% (N=52) of hospitals preferred purchasing through the Belgian Poison Control Centre, while 17% (N=10) opted against it due to reasons such as lack of necessity (1), absence of routine (1), too long delivery delay (3), other local agreements (3), and too frequent own use (2).

Conclusion

This survey highlights significant variability in the availability, use, and procurement of dexrazoxane among Belgian hospitals. Many hospitals face challenges in maintaining an adequate and cost-effective supply, with factors such as low usage frequency, high costs, and supply chain delays contributing to these issues.

There is a need for improved strategies to optimize the availability of dexrazoxane and reduce losses due to expired stock. Central procurement and better local coordination could be strategies to cost-effectively improve dexrazoxane availability.



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