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Audit of practise of the use of palonosetron in patients with refractory chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting

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Aim: A prospective audit of practise of the use of palonosetron in patients with refractory chemotherapy- induced nausea and vomiting in our centre.

Materials and methods: Palonosetron is a second generation 5-HT₃ antagonist antiemetic indicated for the prevention of acute and delayed nausea and vomiting following moderately emetogenic chemotherapy. 10 breast cancer patients receiving moderately emetogenic chemotherapy who had received palonosetron between 08/2005 and 03/2006 were included in this audit. All patients had previously experienced severe chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting, which had not responded to standard antiemetic and rescue medication including ondansetron, dexamethasone and lorazepam. A total of 33 cycles were reviewed. All patients were being monitored by a specialist nurse led phone back system, and a form devised for this purpose was completed.

Results: A complete response (no nausea or vomiting) 0-120 hours after chemotherapy was seen in 57% of cycles. 63% had no vomiting in first 24 hours; 75% had no vomiting 24-120 hours.

Conclusion: Palonosetron should be an option in helping to control chemotherapy- induced nausea and vomiting in patients receiving moderately emetogenic chemotherapy especially in patients failing first generation 5-HT₃ antagonists.