Self-Infused Subcutaneous Immunoglobulin (SCIg) is Safe and Increases Family Satisfaction
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PROBLEM: Home administration of Intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) by a home care (HC) nurse is routine practice. Vivaglobulin became available for subcutaneous infusion in January 2006. As a result, many patients were switched to home subcutaneous immunoglobulin (SCIg) infusions. Subcutaneous immunoglobulin was being administered by an HC nurse; however, many caregivers/patients requested being allowed to administer it independently. These requests led to this evidence-based project.

The PICO question developed is: In patients receiving SCIG in the home, does self infusion vs. infusion by a HC nurse increase adverse events, and increase family satisfaction?

EVIDENCE: Databases used CINAHL, MEDLINE, and PubMed. Keywords: subcutaneous, gamma-globulin, safety, adverse reactions, children, pediatric, adult, and patient satisfaction. Seven articles were relevant to the PICO question. These seven articles were critically appraised, leveled, and graded.

Moderate grade evidence was found that supported self or family member administration of SCIG as safe with minimal to no increase risk of adverse reactions. Articles used for this study also demonstrated that patient and family satisfaction was increased overall.

PRACTICE CHANGE: The policy at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Home Care was changed on May 1, 2009, to allow the education of caregivers to administer home SCIg.

EVALUATION: The transition of patients from IV gamma globulin to caregiver administered SCIg. Evaluated for complication with adverse events with SCIg infusions, and family satisfaction with self administration of SCIg.

RESULTS: As of February, 2010 Cincinnati Children’s Home Care has 32 patients that receive some form of gamma globulin at home. Eight of the 32 receive SCIg. Of the 8 SCIg patients at home 5 have a caregiver administer the medication weekly. 3 families chose to have a nurse administer for fear or hurting child.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Recommendation made to Home Health Care to teach patients and/or family members to administer SCIg independently, if family chooses, in the home with support from pharmacy for supplies and medications.

LESSON LEARNED: Not all caregivers chose to administer their child’s SCIg at home independently. Verification of medication coverage by insurance is very important.
BIBLIOGRAPHY:


