

Long-Time Gastric Protection

Introduction

“Gastric protection” has popularized the use of proton pump inhibitors (PPI) and often are used for any reason without medical control, like after a heavy alcohol intake, in mild heart burn or dyspepsia. The drugs used are Omeprazol, Lanzoprazol, Esemeprazol etc. These drugs decline the acid secretion of the stomach as the main effect. Many people use them at their convenience. Some manufacturers has recommended “maintenance dose” for months and years, this is not convenient. Their sales in USA are \$10 billion in 2001 and \$ 13.8 billions in 2008, is the drug most sold in the world [1].

They are used in routine hospitalization and 65-70 % did not need it and are used as unnecessary maintenance dose too [2]. It has been reported that blocking the gastric secretion leads to pneumonia and bronchopneumonia because bacteria are not destroyed [3]. Prolonged use of PPIs affect the absorption of vitamin B12. Its use by more than 6 months increase Clostridium Difficile disease of 5 to 23 % [4,5]. There have been case reports implicating these drugs in acute interstitial nephritis and progression to acute renal failure [6].

Conclusion

The PPIs should be used for a maximum of 6-8 weeks as illness required, a large number of patients are taking PPIs for no clear reason. PPIs should be stopped to determine if symptomatic treatment is needed.

References

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Commentary

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