**ORAL SUCROSOMIAL® IRON IN PERITONEAL DIALYSIS PATIENTS**

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**BACKGROUND:** The main cause of anemia in chronic kidney disease is a lack of erythropoietin, but iron deficiency, hemolysis, and low response to erythropoietin (inflammation) also contribute. Patients who require treatment with erythropoietin also have functional and absolute iron deficiency. KDOQI guidelines recommend intravenous iron in hemodialysis, but there are no specifications for pre-dialysis and peritoneal dialysis. We should minimize punctures in these patients to reduce vascular damage for future vascular access. Oral Sucrosomial® Iron can preserve vascular access, improve quality of life and save time in peritoneal dialysis patients.

**OBJECTIVES:** To evaluate oral Sucrosomial® Iron administration in maintaining transferrin saturation (> 20%) and ferritin within recommended parameters (100-500 mg/dl). To analyze gastrointestinal tolerance, safety and satisfaction of oral treatment.

**METHODS:** Peritoneal dialysis patients who require intravenous iron (n=19/24) were assessed. We excluded: 3 patients with digestive bleeding, 1 active malignancy, 1 coronary event, 1 peritonitis. Due to multiple oral medications, 4 patients refuse oral iron. Thus, nine patients were included. We controlled anemia parameters before and after administration of Fisiogen Forte® for 12 weeks. We evaluated gastrointestinal symptoms and quality of life through GSRS and QIGLI Test, respectively before and after the treatment.

**RESULTS:** All patients maintained transferrin saturation levels unchanged. Ferritin levels decreased significantly (p=0.02) but in within therapeutic range. No changes in hemoglobin or erythropoietin doses were observed. All patients finished treatment without serious adverse events; one patient referred dark feces and a second one referred constipation. No significant changes in gastrointestinal symptoms and quality of life tests were seen. Visual Analogue Scale for Satisfation (0-10) result showed a median value of 7.8.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Oral Sucrosomial® Iron treatment, is safe and efficacious in maintaining transferrin saturation levels in peritoneal dialysis patients. Although ferritin levels decreased, they remained within therapeutic range. No gastrointestinal adverse effects were reported.