Haematological Response Of Chronic Myeloid Leukemia To Imatinib

Abstract

Aim: To study the haematological response of patients with chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML) to Imatinib (glivec/gleevec).

Design: A prospective study

Setting: Medical ward/Haematological unit, Out patient clinic in Ibn Seena Teaching Hospital, Mosul(April 1998 – April 2003). All patients were subjected to full clinical, and laboratory evaluation and Imatinib 400mg/day.

Results: There were 6 males and 8 females, Age range between 17 – 70 years, their mean was 46.15 years. All are in chronic phase of CML, the duration of illness ranged 2 months to 5 years with a mean of 3.4 years. 13 (92.86%) patients had complete haematological remission (normalization of white blood cell count, and spleen size) two to four weeks after Imatinib. All patients developed arthragia and muscle cramps (100%), 10 had nausea (71.4%), 5 had peri-orbital oedema (35.7%) and 1 patient with myelosuppression (7.14%). These are the adverse effect due to Imatinib.

Conclusion: The haematological response to Imatinib is 92.86% of patients with chronic phase interferon – failure CML. Further study is recommended to evaluate the cytogenetic response (effect of Imatinib on philadelphia chromosome). Additional research should help determine the optimal role for Imatinib, whether is alone, in combination with IFN and cytarabine, or as first line therapy for CML.