Intravenous iron therapy in a rural hospital

Beuy Joob, Ph D[1], Viroj Wiwanitki, MDt[2]

[1]Sanitation1 Medical Academic Center, Bangkok Thailand, [2]Department of Community Medicine, Dr DY Patil University, Pune, Maharashtra, India

Correspondence to: Beuy Joob, beuyjoob@hotmail.com

Dear Editor,

We would like to share our ideas on the publication, 'Intravenous iron therapy in a rural hospital: A retrospective chart review'.[1] Kattini et al. concluded that *'we recommend iron maltoside for efficient intravenous iron replacement in non-pregnant patients and single or multiple doses of 200 mg iron sucrose during pregnancy'*.[1] In our setting in rural Asia, anaemia is common and iron supplementation is routinely used for the management of the problem. However, intravenous iron therapy is rarely used. In our area, anaemia in pregnancy is complex. The anaemia might be due to iron deficiency disorder or inherited haemoglobin disorder (such as thalassaemia).[2,3] In some cases, both iron deficiency disorder or inherited haemoglobin disorder cause anaemia. In these cases, the iron therapy is very hard since the patient usually has a trend of developing haemochromatosis due to inherited haemoglobin disorder. The oral iron supplementary is more preferable, and it is easier to monitor the pregnant patient than using intravenous therapy. In addition, it is necessary to rule out co-existence between iron deficiency anaemia and inherited haemoglobin disorder before starting iron therapy.

Financial support and sponsorship: Nil.

Conflicts of interest: There are no conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES

1. Kattini R, Poirier J, Minty L, LaJuenesse D, Kelly L, Madden S, *et al*. Intravenous iron therapy in a rural hospital: A retrospective chart review. Can J Rural Med 2021;26:123-7.
2. Sukrat B, Suwathanapisate P, Siritawee S, Poungthong T, Phupongpankul K. The prevalence of iron deficiency anemia in pregnant women in Nakhonsawan, Thailand. J Med Assoc Thai 2010;93:765-70.
3. Sanchaisuriya K, Fucharoen S, Ratanasiri T, Sanchaisuriya P, Fucharoen G, Dietz E, *et al*. Thalassemia and hemoglobinopathies rather than iron deficiency are major causes of pregnancy-related anemia in northeast Thailand. Blood Cells Mol Dis 2006;37:8-11.

RESPONSE

The purpose of our study was to identify the clinical options for providing intravenous iron therapy when indicated. Participants were

Received: 03-07-2021 **Revised:** 06-07-2021 **Accepted:** 11-07-2021 **Published:** 06-10-2021

How to cite this article: Joob B, Wiwanitkit V. Intravenous iron therapy in a rural hospital. Can J Rural Med 2021;26:194-5.

Access this article online

Quick Response Code:

Website: www.cjrm.ca

DOI: 10.4103/cjrm.cjrm_44_21

predominantly preoperative patients or women near the end of their pregnancy, patients for whom the limited time frame prompted a consideration of intravenous therapy.

The profile of anaemia was beyond the scope of our study, but we will respond to the authors' clinically relevant comments. In our setting, microcytic anaemia likely reflects iron deficiency anaemia (IDA). The prevalence of IDA in Indigenous women of child-bearing age in Canada has been documented as high as 23%. [1,2] Other causes of microcytic anaemia: chronic disease, thalassaemia, and sideroblastic anaemia can be ruled out with the measurement of serum ferritin, iron concentration, transferrin saturation and iron-binding capacity. Deciding on who requires iron replacement therapy will always be an individualised clinical decision and will be context and patient dependent.

REFERENCES

1. Tahir E, Ayotte P, Little M, Bélanger RE, Lucas M, Mergler D, *et al.* Anemia, iron status, and associated protective and risk factors among children and adolescents aged 3 to 19 years old from four First Nations communities in Quebec. Can J Public Health 2020;111:682-93.
2. Plante C, Blanchet C, Turgeon O'Brien H. Iron Deficiency and Anemia among Women in Nunavik. Institut National de Santé Publique du Québec; 2004. Available from: https://www.inspq.qc.ca/pdf/publications/690_esi_iron_deficiency_anemia_among_women.pdf. [Last accessed on 2021 Jul 03].

Len Kelly, MD, MClinSci, FCFP, FRRM

Sioux Lookout, ON, Canada