

Chapter 19

EFFICACY OF PHYTOCID™-GT IN NAUSEA-VOMITING IN SUBJECTS AFTER CHEMOTHERAPY

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The occurrence of nausea and vomiting during/after cancer chemotherapy may be a significant may be a significant in the extend that alters the life of many patients. The management of this condition is often individual and left to the nursing staff. The problem may be caused by an acute form of functional dyspepsia (excluding the presence of organic lesions or ulcerations) with some level of paralysis of the stomach (or upper intestine).

Phytocyd-GT (Alchem) is a natural product developed to treat dyspepsia; it includes Ginger and Turmeric and can be used as an anti-emetic but it also has a significant anti-inflammatory action. Turmeric can modulate excessive peristaltic activity also increasing motility when reduced and it has been used for abdominal cramps and irritable bowel syndrome.

Both Ginger (50 mg) and Turmeric (100 mg) are effective anti-oxidants and have a mild antimicrobial activity. Phytocid™-GT has been used against indigestion, motion sickness, oral infections, irritable bowel syndrome, in ulcerative colitis, pregnancy-related nausea and vomiting, nausea and in vomiting due to gastroenteritis (as a supportive agent) and in chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting.

After-chemotherapy dyspepsia causes significant discomfort; it is often recurrent.

Several common causes may be involved. Non-ulcerative functional dyspepsia after chemotherapy is defined by symptoms not associated to abnormalities at physical examination and upper GI endoscopy.

There is no standard management for this condition. An empiric – on demand – therapy with anti-secretory agents or anti-emetics may be used. Patients without other identifiable conditions should be observed and reassured.

Specific food causing or aggravating post chemo-dyspepsia should be identified and eliminated.

Small, repeated meals are suggested. PPI can be used; some subjects may have benefits from H₂ blockers or cytoprotective agents according to individual response.

Prokinetic drugs (metoclopramide) as liquid suspensions, may be used when needed.

Our Registry has included subjects characterized by nausea and vomiting, no other significant condition. The dose of Phytocid™-GT was 3 capsules/day for 10 days after chemotherapy.

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Phytocid™-GT has been used for indigestion, motion sickness, oral infections, irritable bowel syndrome, in ulcerative colitis, pregnancy-related nausea and vomiting, nausea and in vomiting due to gastroenteritis (as a supportive agent) and in chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting.

A score was used to evaluate dyspepsia.

DYSPEPSIA SYMPTOMS SCORE: the score evaluated dyspepsia as follows: 0) no symptoms; 1) minor occasional; 2) daily, mild; 3) daily, important; 4) daily, non-severe, continuous; 5) severe, requiring medical assistance.

RESULTS

The two groups (including 22 subjects) resulted comparable. Results of the specific score are shown in Table 19.1.

Figure 19.1 shows variations in dyspepsia score in the 3 groups, with projected trends at 4 weeks.

No side effects were observed. A good tolerability was reported.

Improvements occurred in an average period of 3-5 days.

The score decreased both with SM and with Phytocid™-GT. The Phytocid™-GT group had a significantly higher level of improvement ($p < 0.05$).

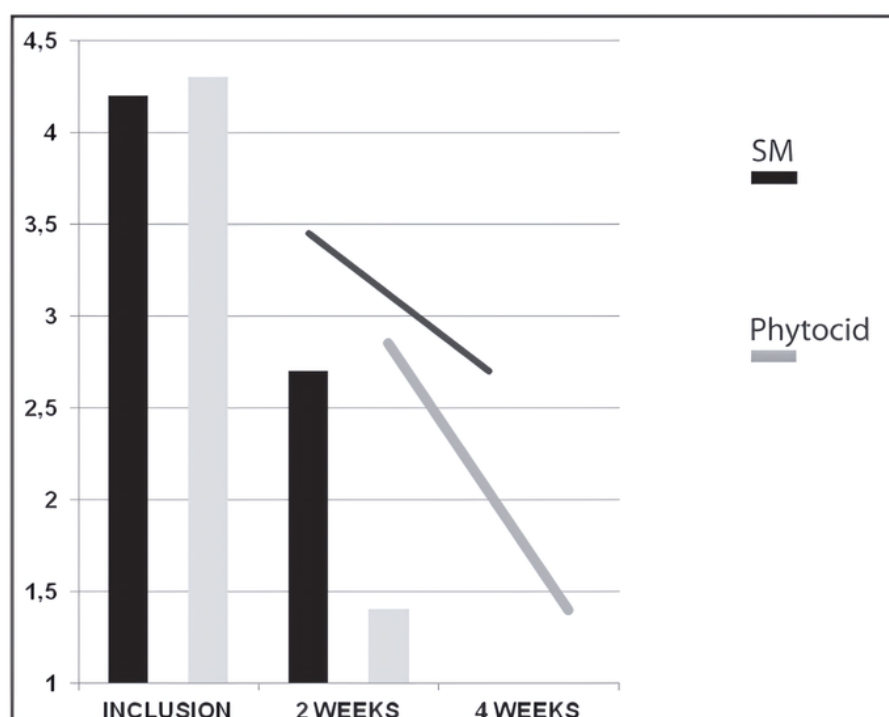


Figure 19.1. Variations in dyspepsia score with projected trends at 4 weeks. Mobile medias (trends) are shown.

Table 19.1.

Management groups	Number	Age	0-5 score	Weeks	
	Fem		Inclusion	2	4
Standard management, diet (mainly metoclopramide)	11(4)	48.6;2	4.2;0.7	2.7;1.2	-
Only Phytocid™-GT	11(5)	49.1;2.2	4.3;0.5	1.4;1.1	-

CONCLUSION

Phytocid™-GT can be used to control post-chemotherapy nausea/vomiting and dyspepsia symptoms in otherwise healthy subjects both as an occasional supplementation and for more structured management for 2-4 weeks.

Phytocid™-GT can be used as a single control supplement or in association with other products (i.e. PPI or metoclopramide) if required by the clinical picture.

The use of the supplement Phytocid™-GT may significantly reduce the need for more important drugs.

Longer and more inclusive studies are still in progress.

For this type of problem, patients need to have responses in a short period of time as the condition is very disabling.

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