

## **SAND abstract No. 18 from the BEACH program 2000–2001**

### **Subject: Drugs for the treatment of peptic ulcer and reflux**

**Organisation supporting this study:** AstraZeneca Australia

**Issues:** This sub-study investigated patients who were currently taking omeprazole or other proton pump inhibitors (PPIs), histamine receptor antagonists (H<sub>2</sub>RAs) or cisapride. Concurrent use of H<sub>2</sub>RAs and antacids, the relationship between endoscopy and medication choice, and between diagnostic finding and medication choice were examined. The life prevalence of peptic ulcer disease and use of Helicobacter (H.pylori) eradication therapy were assessed independently of the other questions.

**Sample:** 95 GPs responded to questions on behalf of 2,856 patients; data collection period: 11/07/00 – 14/8/00

**Method:** Detailed in the paper entitled 'SAND Method' on this web site (<http://www.fmrc.org.au/beach.htm>).

### **Summary of results**

The age-sex distribution of patients at encounters was similar to the distribution of the BEACH sample, with the majority (59.9%) of patients being female.

Of the 2,856 patients, 8.3% (n=236) were currently taking at least one PPI, H<sub>2</sub>RA, or cisapride. The majority of these were taking H<sub>2</sub>RAs (61.4%, 145/236), followed by omeprazole (28.4%), other PPIs (9.3%) and cisapride (5.5%).

Of the 133 respondents on H<sub>2</sub>RAs who responded to a question on level of antacid use, 51.7%, had never used antacids in conjunction with H<sub>2</sub>RA medication. Twenty-two percent (22.1%, 32/133) used antacids infrequently (<once per week) and more frequent use was reported by 18.0% (9.0% >once per week; 9.0% 'daily' use).

Of the 224 patients who were currently taking these medications and also indicated endoscopy status, 164 (73.2%) had undergone an endoscopy. It was common for patients currently taking omeprazole (92.5%, 62/67) and other PPIs (86.4%, 19/22) to have undergone an endoscopy. However, 37.2% (54/145) of those on H<sub>2</sub>RAs had never undergone an endoscopy.

The predominant diagnosis on endoscopy was reflux oesophagitis (39.4%, 65/164), followed by ulcerative oesophagitis (21.8%, 36/164). Peptic ulcer disease (PUD) was diagnosed for 14.5% (24/164).

The most common diagnosis (post endoscopy) for patients on H<sub>2</sub>RAs was reflux oesophagitis (39.3%, 33/84), while for those on omeprazole, reflux oesophagitis (40.3%, 25/62) and ulcerative oesophagitis (40.3%) were most common.

Of the total sample less than one in 20 (4.4%, n=125) reported having been diagnosed with PUD at some time. Of these, 39% had received H.pylori eradication therapy. For the 71 patients who had not, it was 'not considered appropriate' for 24 (32.4%), and the opportunity to undergo an H.pylori test was 'not available' to 27.

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