PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

A STUDY ON THE SAFETY AND TOLERABILITY OF ORAL PROPANOLOL IN INFANTILE HAEMANGIOMA: A SINGLE CENTRE EXPERIENCE

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Introduction: Infantile haemangiomas are the commonest vascular tumour in childhood. Propanolol has remained the first line treatment for complicated infantile haemangiomas

Objective: We aim to assess the safety and tolerability of oral propranolol in young infants with infantile haemangiomas.

Method: This is a prospective cohort study done from January 2017 to June 2018. The infants were served with oral propranolol of 2 mg/kg/day in 3 divided doses in the daycare setting. The vital signs and capillary blood glucose levels were monitored as per protocol.

Results: Thirty five healthy infants were included in the study. The median age of presentation was 4 months. Eighty percent (n=28) of the infants were female. The commonest site was the lips (24 %). The most common indication to start propranolol was functional impairment. There was significant decrease in mean heart rate 2 hours post propranolol ($p<0.05$). This decrease persisted at the 3rd and 4th hour post treatment ($P<0.01$). However, there were no episodes of bradycardia. In contrast, there was no significant differences in mean systolic blood pressure and Diastolic blood pressure from baseline. No patient developed hypoglycaemia. Despite the drop in heart rate, the infants were asymptomatic. Four infants experienced adverse event but none of them required hospitalization

Conclusion: Propanolol is a safe and well tolerated drug in treating complicated infantile haemangiomas in selected healthy infants. It can be safely administered in an outpatient setting.