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A Review Of Chemotherapy Induced Nausea And Vomiting

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Abstract:

Chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting is a common distressing side effect of chemotherapy and radiation. It involves two primary mechanisms: chemoreceptor trigger zone and the peripheral pathway. Various neurotransmitter receptors such as dopamine, serotonin (5-HT₃), neurokinin-1 (NK-1), and cholecystokinin are activated by chemotherapy, causing an emetic response. Acute, delayed, breakthrough, refractory and anticipatory are different types of chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting. Good management of chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting is very essential to reduce the economic burden, increase adherence and improve quality of life. More than 80% of patients taking cancer chemotherapy experiences this side effect. Treatment benefit depends on the efficacy of the type of antiemetic drug combination and as well as concomitant use of non-pharmacological approaches. Antiemetics are given as prophylaxis and also for the treatment. Various regimens are recommended by different guidelines.

KEY WORDS: Chemotherapy, chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting, neurotransmitters, adherence, antiemetics

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