



ROLE OF PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS IN THE TREATMENT OF NSAID-INDUCED ADVERSE DIGESTIVE EFFECTS

Pilotto Alberto, Franceschi Marilisa, Scarcelli Carlo, Niro Valeria, Seripa Davide, IRCCS
'Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza', San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are among the most commonly prescribed drugs worldwide, particularly in the elderly. The use of NSAIDs and/or aspirin is frequently associated with gastrointestinal symptoms, gastroduodenal lesions and severe adverse events, such as upper digestive bleeding and perforation. The risk of digestive injuries can be doubled in the setting of acute versus chronic NSAID administration. Possible strategies to prevent NSAID-induced damage in the elderly patients include: a) to identify patients with high risk levels; b) appropriateness of drug prescription; c) to use of NSAIDs at low dosages or to select NSAIDs endowed with low damaging activity; d) to prescribe gastroprotective drugs, such as synthetic prostaglandin analogues or inhibitors of gastric acid secretion; e) to eradicate *Helicobacter pylori* infection in patients with evidence of infection; f) activate educational programs directed to the general population, patients and healthcare personnel.