INTERCHANGEABILITY BETWEEN HUMAN IMMUNOGLOBULIN'S IN NEUROLOGIC DISEASES

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The aim of this study is to review the scientific and pharmacoeconomic data about intravenous immunoglobulins (IVIGs) interchangeability. With the global economic crises there's a growing pressure to optimize health care resource utilization. As immunoglobulins prices change frequently one easy way is to change to the less expensive product at any time. The authors made a review of the literature in the search of clinical security of such solution. Comparability of different IVIg products is a matter of controversy. As human normal immunoglobulins are produced from a large number of pooled donations it provides a large array of antibodies that along with the therapeutic effect are cross-reactive to self-antigens or pathologic antibodies. Although all IVIgs have to adhere to the European Pharmacopoeia monograph 0918, some differences in the pharmaceutical composition between products, but also between batches of one product do exist. These differences may impact IVIg tolerability and safety. The incidence of adverse events increases when a patient changes therapies making its interchangeability a clinical high and potentially dangerous risk. It seems to be an unwise cost option because there is no way to predict which patients will have an adverse event or how serious the adverse event will be.