Factors to consider before switching anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) treatments in neovascular age-related macular degeneration (nAMD): Effect of online education on physician knowledge and confidence

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Purposes

Clinicians need improved familiarity and clinical expertise regarding safe and effective switching of anti-VEGF agents in the management of patients with nAMD. A study was conducted to determine the effect of an online continuing medical education (CME) accredited program developed for ophthalmologists (Opt) and primary care physicians (PCP) on their knowledge and confidence when considering switching anti-VEGF agents in treating nAMD, and to identify remaining knowledge gaps.

Methods

A study was conducted to determine the effect of an online continuing medical education (CME) accredited program developed for ophthalmologists (Opt) and primary care physicians (PCP) on their knowledge and confidence when considering switching anti-VEGF agents in treating nAMD, and to identify remaining knowledge gaps.

Results

At baseline, 37% of Opt (n=212) and 23% of PCP (n=57) answered 3 out of 4 questions correctly, increasing to 65% (P=0.001) and 75% (P<0.001) on post-assessment.

Question 1. According to clinical studies and real-life clinical practice, what must be considered for switching anti-VEGF therapy in patients with nAMD?

- 65% of Opt (n=212) and 75% of PCP (n=57) correctly identified the need to consider patient’s clinical response to previous therapies.

Question 2. Risk factors to consider before switching anti-VEGF treatments in neovascular AMD; and competence in evaluating clinical findings.vv

- 51% of Opt (n=212) and 64% of PCP (n=57) correctly identified the importance of assessing patient’s individual risk.

CONCLUSION

- Participation in online CME consisting of a 30-minute video panel discussion with synthesized slides resulted in reinforcement and improvement in Opt and PCP knowledge and confidence regarding the appropriate setting for switching of anti-VEGF agents in patients receiving treatment for nAMD.

- There was a significant increase in knowledge and confidence when considering switching anti-VEGF agents in treating nAMD.

- Additional education is warranted to improve familiarity with switching criteria, better utilize real-world evidence, and further understand the implications of tachyphylaxis in the context of nAMD.

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References

1. Medical Education. Medscape LLC, New York, New York, United States; Department of Ophthalmology, Tel Aviv Medical Center, Tel Aviv, Israel. [Presentation Program Number: 806 - A013B]