

ABSTRACT

PATIENTS' ATTITUDES TO PHARMACOTHERAPY OF OSTEOPOROSIS

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INTRODUCTION: Patients' attitudes to treatment might be affected by various factors. These may vary in different generations as well as in different populations. The patients' attitudes to the treatment along with the illness may affect decision concerning the beginning, interruption or end of the treatment. That implies that the interaction between these factors and attitudes to the treatment is comprehensive.

AIMS: The study aim was to evaluate the patients' attitudes to the treatment of osteoporosis based on the perception of necessity and concerns of treatment with oral bisphosphonates (BIS).

METHODS: Data for the analysis were obtained using an anonymous questionnaire in five outpatient centres in the Czech Republic from November 2012 to March 2013. The patients' opinions concerning the BIS treatment were identified (necessity vs. concerns) using the Czech version of the „Beliefs about Medicines Questionnaire Specific” (BMQ-CZ).

RESULTS: A total of 363 patients were involved in the analysis (mean age 68.9 years). Patients were treated with once a week dosing forms of BIS - alendronate, alendronate + vitamin D in a fixed combination, risedronate (N = 133) or once a month dosing form – ibandronate (N = 230). The perception of the treatment necessity (mean score 18.4) was significantly higher than the perception of concerns of the treatment (mean score 13.3). Patients with the once a week dosing form of BIS perceived a greater lifestyle disruption by the BIS treatment in comparison with those who use once a month dosing form of BIS.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION: The perception of treatment necessity was higher than concerns of the treatment i.e., osteoporosis patients' opinions concerning the importance of osteoporosis treatment prevail above those about potential harmfulness and adverse effects of the drugs. It is necessary that the patients' attitudes are identified and evaluated further, especially during the patients' consultations with their prescribing physician and pharmacist. Particular attention should be given to patients with polypharmacotherapy and worse health.