

Original Research Article

The Outpatient prescribing of Miconazole in a Tertiary Hospital in Riyadh Region

ABSTRACT

Aim: The present study aimed to describe the use of miconazole in the outpatient setting of a tertiary hospital in Riyadh Region.

Methodology: This was a retrospective study that included reviewing the electronic prescriptions that contained miconazole among patients in a public hospital in Riyadh Region.

Results: Most of the patients who received miconazole were females (89.29%) and the age of 51.79% of them was between 30 and 39 years. Most of the prescriptions were written by residents (96.43%) and most of the prescriptions were prescribed by emergency department (66.07%). Most of the patients received miconazole as vaginal suppository (50.00%) or as cream (39.29%).

Conclusion: The present study showed that miconazole was uncommonly prescribed in in Riyadh Region. Further studies are needed to explore the frequency and pattern of miconazole use as well as to explore the frequency of prescribing other antifungal medications in different settings.

Keywords: Antifungal, Miconazole, Outpatient, Use.

INTRODUCTION

Fungi can live in the soil, air, plants, and water and some fungi live naturally in the human body [1]. Like many microorganisms, there are harmful fungi and helpful fungi [1]. Different types of fungi can cause fungal infections. Some of these fungi are normally present on or inside the body and can multiply out of

control to cause an infection and in other cases, fungi that aren't found on or inside the body can colonize and cause an infection [2].

Fungal diseases are commonly occurring in the skin or in the lungs. Other fungal diseases such as bloodstream infections and fungal meningitis are less common than lung and skin infections but can be fatal [3]. Antifungal drugs are used to treat these fungal infections [4]. The most common antifungal drugs are miconazole, clotrimazole, econazole, nystatin, terbinafine, ketoconazole, amphotericin, and fluconazole [4].

Miconazole is an azole antifungal with broad-spectrum activity used in the treatment of fungal infections affecting the mouth, vagina, and skin [5]. It was first synthesized in 1969 and first granted Food and Drug Administration approval on January 1974, for sale as a topical cream by INSIGHT Pharmaceuticals [6,7].

Miconazole could cause several adverse effects. Topical or vaginal miconazole could cause burning, irritation, itching, and rash [8]. On the other hand, miconazole oral could cause diarrhea, headache, nausea, abdominal pain, dysgeusia, and vomiting [9]. It may also interact with several medications such as ibuprofen, lorazepam, amoxicillin/ clavulanate, diphenhydramine, fluconazole, omega-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids, and alprazolam [10].

There are few studies about the frequency and pattern of using miconazole in Riyadh Region. So, the present study aimed to describe the use of miconazole in the outpatient setting of a tertiary hospital in Riyadh Region.

METHODOLOGY

Setting

This was a retrospective study that included reviewing the electronic prescriptions that contained miconazole among patients in a public hospital in Riyadh Region.

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The inclusion criteria included the prescriptions that were prescribed in the outpatient setting and that contained miconazole in the study period between January 2018 and June 2018. Exclusion criteria include the prescriptions that were written by other settings such as inpatient setting in addition to the outpatient prescriptions that didn't contain an miconazole dosage form.

Data Collection and Presentation

The collected data included the personal data of patients, the number of prescriptions that contained miconazole and that were prescribed during different months of the study, duration of miconazole use, the level of prescribers who prescribed miconazole, the prescribed dosage forms of miconazole, and the departments that prescribed miconazole. The data were collected and analyzed by Excel spreadsheet and after that they were represented descriptively as numbers and percentages.

RESULTS and DISCUSSION

Miconazole were prescribed to 56 patients in the outpatient department of the hospital during the study period from the beginning of January 2018 to the end of June 2018. Most of the patients were females (89.29%) and the age of 51.79% of them was between 30 and 39 years. Table 1 shows the personal data of the patients.

Table 1. The personal data of the patients.

Variable	Category	Number	Percentage
Gender	Female	50	89.29
	Male	6	10.71
Age	Less than 10	5	8.93
	10-19	1	1.78
	20-29	11	19.64
	30-39	29	51.79
	40-49	4	7.14
	50-59	3	5.36
	60-69	2	3.57
	More than 69	1	1.78
Nationality	Saudi	45	80.36
	Non- Saudi	11	19.64

Table 2 shows the number of the prescriptions that were prescribed in the different months of the study. more than 28% of the prescriptions were prescribed in April and 19.64% of the prescriptions were prescribed in June.

Table 2. The number of the prescriptions that were prescribed during the study months.

Month	Number	Percentage
January	5	8.93
February	10	17.86
March	10	17.86
April	16	28.57
May	4	7.14
June	11	19.64

Table 3 shows the duration of miconazole use. More than 76% of the patients received miconazole for 1 week and 8.93% of them received it for 5 days.

Table 3. The duration of miconazole use.

Duration	Number	Percentage
3 Days	1	1.78
5 Days	5	8.93
1 Week	43	76.79
1 Month	4	7.14
2 Months	1	1.78
More than 2 Months	2	3.57

Table 4 shows the level of prescribers who prescribed miconazole. Most of the prescriptions were written by residents (96.43%).

Table 4. The level of prescribers.

Prescribers Level	Number	Percentage
Specialist	1	1.78
Resident	54	96.43
Consultant	1	1.78

Table 5 shows the prescribed dosage forms of miconazole. Most of the patients received miconazole as vaginal suppository (50.00%) or as cream (39.29%).

Table 5. The prescribed dosage forms of miconazole.

Dosage form	Number	Percentage
Oral gel	6	10.71
Cream	22	39.29
Vaginal suppository	28	50.00
Total	56	100

Table 6 shows the departments that prescribed miconazole. Most of the prescriptions were prescribed by emergency department (66.07%) and 19.64% of the prescriptions were written by obstetrics & gynecology department.

Table 6. The departments that prescribed miconazole.

Department	Number	Percentage
Dermatology	7	12.50
Emergency	37	66.07
Internal Medicine	1	1.78
Obstetrics & Gynecology	11	19.64

The present study showed that the prescribing of miconazole was uncommon the outpatient department in Al-Kharj. In contrast to that, previous studies found that miconazole is prescribed commonly to treat fungal infections. Abhinav et al reported that miconazole, ketoconazole, and clotrimazole are prescribed more frequently than other imidazoles [11]. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated that miconazole is one of the most frequently recommended and effective topical antifungal medications for the treatment of fungal infections such as vulvovaginal candidiasis [12].

Ghaninejad et al informed that miconazole nitrate is used widely to treat fungal infections [13]. Moreover, Khadka et al reported that the most commonly used drugs and the most effective antifungal drugs to treat candidal infections were clotrimazole, miconazole and fluconazole [14]. Hermawan et al reported that miconazole is commonly used to the skin or to mucous membrane to cure fungal infections [15].

In the present study, more than 76% of the patients received miconazole for 1 week and 8.93% of them received it for 5 days and for 1 month 7.14 and this is rational because the duration of miconazole is different for treating different diseases. For example, regarding topical dosage forms, the duration of treating vaginal candidiasis was between 3 and 7 days, for treating tinea corporis and tinea pedis the duration of treatment is 4 weeks, and the duration of treating cutaneous candidiasis is 2 weeks and for oral for oral thrush the treatment duration is 14 consecutive days [16,17].

Most of the patients in the present study received miconazole as vaginal suppository (50.00%) or as cream (39.29%) and because this medication is used commonly to treat vaginal yeast infections and as shown in the present study that most of the patients who received miconazole was females (89.29%). Moreover, most of the prescriptions were prescribed by emergency department (66.07%) and 19.64% of the prescriptions were written by obstetrics & gynecology department. this is rational because the patients

in emergency department are commonly suffer from fungal infections and several patients visited obstetrics & gynecology department have vaginal infections.

CONCLUSION

The present study showed that miconazole was uncommonly prescribed in in Riyadh Region. Further studies are needed to explore the frequency and pattern of miconazole use as well as to explore the frequency of prescribing other antifungal medications in the outpatients setting and in the other settings.

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