ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH HAEMOPHILIA A SWITCHED TO PROPHYLACTIC REPLACEMENT TREATMENT

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OBJECTIVES: Regular prophylactic replacement therapy has been proved to provide a better quality of life in children with haemophilia A compared to those treated when bleeding occurs (on-demand treatment). No data is available in adults. The aim of this study is the evaluation and comparison of health-related quality of life (HRQoL) in patients who switched from on-demand therapy to prophylaxis. METHODS: A prospective, open study design was chosen. Patients receiving on demand treatment aged 18 years or more and affected by severe haemophilia A were enrolled at two Italian haemophilia care centres at the moment of their switching to prophylaxis therapy.

Information related to the on-demand treatment time period (ODT), six months before enrolment, and to the prophylaxis time period (PT), six months after enrolment, has been obtained at baseline and at the end of the follow-up period. Two generic HRQoL questionnaires, EuroQol (EQ-5D) and Short Form 36 (SF-36) have been used, higher score corresponding to better quality of life. RESULTS: Ten patients returned HRQoL questionnaires: the median age was 31.9 years (ranging from 23 to 58 years). At the end of the follow-up period, SF-36 showed a statistically significant improvement in patients quality of life in some domains (“Physical Functioning” and “Bodily Pain”), p < 0.05 and in the Physical Component Summary (mean score after ODT 43.9 vs. 48.3 after PT, p < 0.05). Results obtained with EuroQol-5D were comparable to those showed by SF-36, with significantly different Visual Analogue Scale scores after ODT vs. after PT (67.9 and 72.9 respectively, p < 0.05). CONCLUSIONS: Prophylaxis therapy in adult patients with severe haemophilia showed to provide a significant improvement in HRQoL and it should therefore be considered in a cost utility evaluation.