A Safety Trial of Ibuprofen (Motrin) in Factor-VIII- and -IX-Deficient Haemophiliacs

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Most anti-inflammatory analgetics, particularly ASA, are considered contraindicated in the treatment of haemophiliacs, because of in vitro inhibition of haemostatic function. Nevertheless, because one of the major complications of haemophilia is chronic haemophilic arthropathy, it would appear reasonable to use such agents in the control of this debilitating complication. Previous work by us indicated that one of the newer propionic acid derivatives, Ibuprofen (Motrin, Upjohn), induced minimal in vitro and in vivo inhibition of haemostatic function. Accordingly, an initial safety trial was started using 24 normal subjects and 12 moderately to severely affected factor-VIII- and -IX-deficient haemophiliacs. Within each group, 600 mg of ibuprofen or lactose placebo was given in a random double-blind study. Over 24 h, no changes were seen in the bleeding time, peripheral blood counts or spontaneous bleeding patterns in the haemophiliacs, using either placebo or Motrin. Subsequently, a 21-day trial was initiated with 15

moderately to severely affected haemophiliacs, using a dose of 2,400 mg per os Ibuprofen per day. At 0, 7, 14 and 21 days, factor assays, bleeding times, platelet function and cell studies were performed. No clinically significant changes were found in any of the experimental variables, including pattern of spontaneous haemorrhages. 4 of the 15 subjects experienced intermittent dyspepsia, controlled by antacids. 7 of 11 individuals with haemophilic arthropathy had a subjective decrease in symptoms from arthropathy.

It is concluded that Ibuprofen (Motrin) is not associated with clinically significant changes in vitro or in vivo haemostatic function in factor-VIII- or -IX-deficient haemophiliacs and should be considered in the treatment of haemophilic arthropathy.