MELD BASED COMPARISON OF HOSPITALIZATIONS FROM HEPATIC ENCEPHALOPATHY IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED LIVER DISEASE ON RIFAXIMIN AND LACTULOSE COMBINATION THERAPY

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To analyze the effect of rifaximin and lactulose combination therapy in preventing hospitalizations from hepatic encephalopathy (HE) in patients with advanced liver disease (MELD ≥20)

Hospitalizations from HE in Patients on Rifaximin and Lactulose Combination Therapy: Methods

- Examined records from 254 consecutive patients who were receiving combination rifaximin and lactulose therapy who had been evaluated for liver transplant
  - Divided into two groups
    - Patients whose MELD was $\geq 20$
    - Patients whose MELD was $<20$
  - Patients who received $<3$ months of rifaximin and lactulose were excluded

Hospitalizations from HE in Patients on Rifaximin and Lactulose Combination Therapy: Results

- 220 patients with complete data were analyzed
  - Median age: 58 years
  - Male: 63%
  - Caucasian: 69%
  - Etiology: Chronic hepatitis C (36%), Laennec’s cirrhosis (18%), primary liver cancer (15%) and NASH (14%)

Hospitalizations from HE in Patients on Rifaximin and Lactulose Combination Therapy: Results (cont)

- 638 hospitalizations occurred during observation period
  - 195 hospitalizations due to HE
  - 443 hospitalizations were due to causes other than HE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MELD</th>
<th>Number of Patients</th>
<th>Number of Hospitalizations</th>
<th>Hospitalizations per Patient</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;20</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<td>43</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;20</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>3.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>≥20</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>3.73</td>
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Hospitalizations from HE in Patients on Rifaximin and Lactulose Combination Therapy: Conclusions

• In patients with advanced liver disease receiving rifaximin and lactulose combination therapy:
  – HE related hospitalizations were lower in patients whose MELD ≥20 compared to patients with MELD <20
  – In contrast, patients whose MELD ≥20 had greater incidence of non HE hospitalizations than patients with MELD <20

• The preventive effect of rifaximin and lactulose combination therapy was pronounced in patients whose MELD was ≥20