

EBM case discussion demonstration

Case: 65 year-old male, a case of colon cancer, was sent to the ER due to conscious disturbance. His serum calcium level is 3.2 mmol/L.

Question: In a patient with hypercalcemia, will the use of steroid decrease serum calcium level more quickly than conventional treatment ?

PICO:

P: a cancer patient with hypercalcemia

I: steroid

C: conventional treatment without steroid

O: serum calcium level, length of hospital stay or mortality

Literature search:

Medline 1966 ~ 2012: [exp hypercalcemia] AND [exp glucocorticoid]

Limit to clinical trials

A total of 12 literatures was found. One randomized clinical trial was found.

Evidence:

Journal of Internal Medicine. 232(3):237-45, 1992 Sep.

JADAD score: 3

Results: Prednisolone, furosemide and rehydration is superior to furosemide and rehydration alone in severely hypercalcaemic patients with metastatic breast cancer

Conclusion:

Only limited evidence was found to support the routine use of steroid in cancer patients with hypercalcemias.