

Phosphate binders in the food : a novel therapeutic option for the management of hyperphosphatemia in Chronic Kidney Disease(CKD) patients

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Introduction

Despite the introduction of new phosphate binders, hyperphosphatemia is still an important problem for cardiovascular calcification and for the increase mortality in CKD patients. Recently a new phosphate binder, Chitosan, was introduced as chewing gum obtaining promising results. Currently low phosphate diet is considered a cardinal point to manage hyperphosphatemia but the daily reduction of proteins increases the risk of malnutrition in CKD patients. Beverages , phosphate additives in food and drugs are considered other relevant sources of phosphate

Design, setting, participants, and measurements

We provided a novel phosphate binder (Chitosan) in a proteic snack bar during the dialytic treatment instead of the common bread and ham sandwich . The Chitosan snack bar contained 10.50 gr. of protein and 20 mg of chitosan . We enrolled ten patients , 6 male and 4 females, aging 60.1 ± 11.04 years undergoing periodic bicarbonate dialysis , from 35.7 ± 15.8 months . The patients who usually were eating bread and ham at same time in each dialysis session ate one snack bar for 3 months and performed questionnaire regarding taste and personal preference . We measured before and after 3 months starting dialysis treatment serum BUN, glucose, creatinine, Na, K, Ca, P, total protein, cholesterol and triglycerides

Results

After 3 months P serum levels decreased from 6.09 ± 0.79 mg/dl to 5.13 ± 0.46 mg/dl ($p < 0,0001$) and total protein increase from 5.76 ± 0.17 g/100 ml to 6.83 ± 0.22 g/100ml ($p < 0,0001$) , cholesterol serum levels decreased from 196.1 ± 24.53 mg/dl to 141.6 ± 21.16 mg/dl ($p < 0,0001$) and triglycerides decreased from 130.8 ± 35.19 mg/dl ($p < 0,0001$). The results of the questionnaire showed that the patients preferred the Chitosan snack bar over bread and ham sandwich.

Conclusion

The phosphate binder (Chitosan) contained in the food is a novel option for the treatment of hyperphosphatemia and hypercholesterolemia in CKD patients and it may increase their therapeutic adherence.

