The aim of this study was to assess the efficacy of preoperative intravenous (IV) iron infusion in optimizing hemoglobin (Hb) levels in anemic colorectal cancer patients” Wilson et al (2017).

Abstract:

BACKGROUND: In the treatment of preoperative anemia, which is associated with increased postoperative morbidity, iron supplementation can replace blood transfusion and erythropoiesis-stimulating agents. The aim of this study was to assess the efficacy of preoperative intravenous (IV) iron infusion in optimizing hemoglobin (Hb) levels in anemic colorectal cancer patients.

RESULTS: A total of 758 patients with colorectal cancer were eligible, of whom 318 (41.9%)
had anemia. The IV and the UC groups included 52 and 153 patients with mean Hb levels at diagnosis of 6.3 and 6.9 mmol/L, respectively. In the IV group, preoperative Hb level was significantly increased compared to the UC group (0.65 mmol/L vs. 0.10 mmol/L, p < 0.001). High increase in Hb level after iron infusion was associated with initial higher transferrin and lower ferritin levels (high vs. poor responders: median transferrin 2.9 g/L vs. 2.7 g/L, median ferritin 12 µg/L vs. 27 µg/L).

CONCLUSION: Implementation of IV iron therapy in anemic colorectal cancer patients leads to a distinct increase of preoperative Hb level. IV iron therapy is most effective in patients presenting with more severe anemia, and with higher transferrin and lower ferritin levels, markers for an absolute iron deficiency (ID), compared to functional ID.

Reference:


Thank you to our partners for supporting IVTEAM