A cross sectional survey on the physician knowledge for urolithiasis management and prevention conducted at an international urology meeting

Z. Zaidi¹, A. Abdullah², K. Mehdi³
¹ Urology Department, Indus Hospital, Karachi, Pakistan
² Department of Urology, Liaqat National Hospital, Karachi, Pakistan
³ Medical Affairs and Clinical Research, Getz Pharma, Karachi, Pakistan

Introduction: Urolithiasis is ranked as 3rd commonest of all urological diseases. In Afro-Asian stone belt from Egypt stretching to Middle East, Pakistan, India to Philippines have high incidence of Urolithiasis which contributes to 40-50% of all urological workload in hospitals. The aim of this survey was to assess the knowledge of physicians in management and prevention of urolithiasis based on a small survey conducted at a regional urology forum.

Methods: A questionnaire based survey conducted during International Urology Meeting, Kenya (June 2013) by Getz Pharma. A total of 40 survey forms were circulated and 34 returned by physicians. The data was analyzed by SPSS v.20.

Results: Among surveyed physicians, 15 (44.1%) were ≤ 50 years of age, 19 (55.9%) were >50 years. There were 33 (97.0%) males and 1 (3%) female. Physicians were from Kenya 18 (52.9%), Pakistan 12 (35.3%) and Philippines 4 (11.8%). About 25 (73.5%) physicians referred ≤ 50% patients for stone Analysis while 7 (20.6%) referred >50%. According to physicians, the commonest stone analysis was Calcium Oxalate (64.7%) and Mixed Stones (17.6%). Metabolic screening for recurrent stone formers was recommended by 30 (88.2%) physicians, out of which most commonly prescribed tests were Serum Uric Acid (96.66%), 24hr Urinary Oxalate (70%), Serum Phosphate (70%), Serum Calcium (66.66%), 24hr Urinary Calcium (60%), 24hr Urinary Sodium (46.66%), 24hr Urinary Citrate (40%), 24hr Urinary Magnesium (20%) and 24hr Urinary Potassium (20%). When asked about prescribing metaphylaxis therapy to urolithiasis patients, 17 (50%) physicians prescribed metaphylaxis to <50% urolithiasis patients, 14 (41.2%) physicians prescribed >50% whereas 2 (5.9%) physicians never prescribed metaphylaxis. 1 (2.9%) physician did not respond.

Conclusion: The survey reflects that the physicians have adequate knowledge on urolithiasis management but disease prevention is not their priority. A larger sample size is required for better generalizability of the results.

Disclosure: This survey was made possible through an unrestricted academic grant from Getz Pharma (Pvt) Ltd.