

Knowledge and Ocular Side Effects of Use of Isotretinoin in Saudi Arabia

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ABSTRACT

Study Design: Cross sectional

Background: Isotretinoin is a drug predominantly used to treat severe acne. It is sometimes referred to as 13-cis-retinoic acid and is sold under the trade name Accutane among others. It is also employed in the treatment of various cancers as well as the prevention of other skin cancers. Such a system is the eye, where isotretinoin causes reversible meibomian gland atrophy. Although isotretinoin is effective, its precise mechanism is yet unknown.

Methods: In this cross-sectional study, data were collected by the purposely constructed questionnaire. A questionnaire composed of the demographic items and items related to Glaucoma. A questionnaire was constructed after the series of discussions between the panel of experts, SPSS ver.20 was used for analysis.

Results: In our study 65% were males while 35% were females, 55% were lying in age group of 26-36 years, 25% were belongs to medical profession, 60% had monthly income between 5 to 15 thousand 24% were smokers, 52% had no chronic illness 45% were involved in moderate activity level, 50% observed glaucoma between 1-3 years, 92.4% observed side effects.

Conclusion: Isotretinoin is beneficial, it can be hazardous if used for other conditions because we are unsure of what side effects it will have in the long- or short-term. When we use it without taking the appropriate steps to treat other disorders, that is when the main issue arises.

Keywords: Isotretinoin, Glaucoma, Awareness, Knowledge, Side effects

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