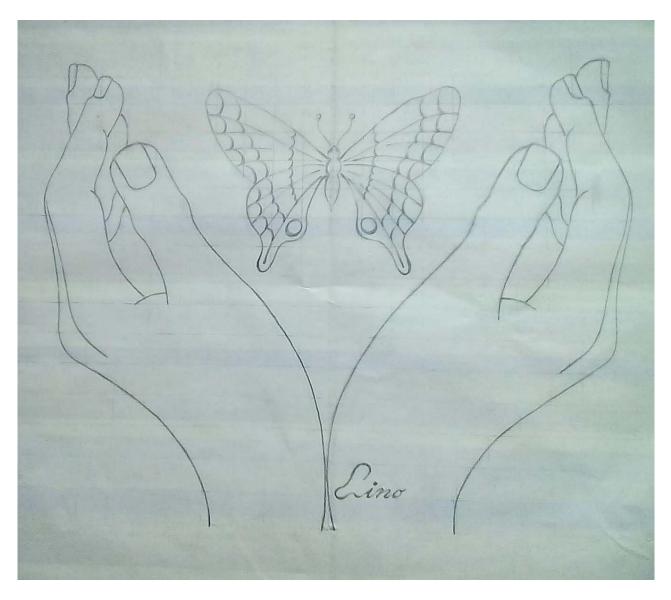
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Role of the Nurse team in chronic heart failure patients.

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ABSTRACT

Background: Heart failure (HF) is defined as an alteration of the heart structures or their function that causes the appearance of clinical symptoms (dyspnoea) and clinical signs (edema) and worsens the quality of life of the affected person. Aim: The aim of our study is to underline the important role of the sacubitril / valsartan combination in heart failure patients with reduced ejection fraction in a group of elderly subjects often underrepresented in observational clinical studies. Materials and Methods: We enrolled 11 elderly patients 9 men (age range 70 - 87, therefore with a mean value of 77 years) and 2 women (age range 50 - 71 therefore with a mean value of 60.5 years) subjecting them to a preliminary echocardiographic evaluation to select only heart failure patients (NYHA III) with a reduction in ejection fraction <35%. A therapeutic swich protocol was established for all enrolled patients in order to suspend therapy with antihypertensive agents of the category of ACE inhibitors and Sartans and start the combination therapy sacubitril / Valsartan at a dosage of 24/26 mg twice, per day. We recorded electrocardiographic activity with digital equipment in beat-by-beat recording mode. We analyzed the Tpeak to T-end index by measuring the distance between the peak point of the T wave and the end of the T wave itself (measured on the isoelectric). We studied enrolled patients using a version 2.0 handheld cardio ECG to record standard beat-by-beat ECGs in order to extrapolate data for the variables under consideration. We used the international measurement scale for laboratory test results (creatinine mg / dl; glucose mg / dl; BNP pg / ml). Statistical analyzes were performed using Paired t-test with Sigmastat v. 3.5 statistical analysis program. Qualitative test results are evaluated during a physical examination (decreased dyspnoea, decreased symptom duration, and improved walking test). All patients provided signed informed consent. **Results**: the preliminary data relate to the first 11 patients enrolled in the study suffering from heart failure with reduced ejection fraction <35%. 9 men (age range 70 - 87, therefore with mean value of 77 years) and 2 women (age range 50 - 71 therefore with mean value of 60.5 years) were enrolled in the study and re-evaluated after one month of treatment with Sacubitril. / Valsartan 24/26 mg twice daily. Of the patients enrolled in our study, 4 subjects had moderate renal insufficiency (1.582 mg/ dL + 0.722 mg / dL vs 1.524 mg / dL + 0.653 mg / dL with p = 0.550) and 4 subjects with diabetes (123.8)

mg/dl) dl + 42.3 mg/dl vs 124.6 mg/dl + 58.3 mg/dl with p = 0.916). All patients have hypertension but with acceptable blood pressure values (<140/90 mmHg) and a normal electrolyte balance (due to adjusted doses of different diuretic treatments). All patients were treated with diuretics (furosemide and spironolactone at the same dose during follow-up), beta blockers, ACE inhibitors and ARBs. All patients underwent therapeutic swich from ACE inhibitors or ARBs to the sacubitril / valsartan combination. There are no significant differences in renal failure (1.582 mg / dl + 0.722 mg / dl vs 1.524 mg / dl + 0.653 mg / dl with p = 0.550), diabetes (123.8 mg/dl + 42.3 mg/dl vs 124.6 mg/dl + 58.3 mg/dl with p = 0.916), BNP (1513 pg / ml + 936.9 pg / ml vs 1122 pg / ml + 935.4 pg / ml with p = 0.082), RR variability (858.2 ms + 145.8 ms vs 772 ms + 145.8 ms with P = 0.322), LF / HF (0.335 + 0.225 vs 0.373 + 0.241 with P = 0.821), T-peak to T- end (89.6 ms + 18.5 ms vs 97.1 ms + 16.3 ms with P = 0.340) and corrected QT interval (367 ms + 34.6 ms vs 353 ms + 35.3 ms with P = 0.164). Further evaluations are currently underway in order to expand the size of the sample examined. **Discussion and Conclusions**: The Sacubitril / Valsartan combination may represent a new approach useful for the treatment of heart failure in elderly patients with reduced ejection fraction <35%. Our first data have given reassuring results but, for now, we have analyzed only a few patients in order to express definitive results. Our studies may represent a new approach to evaluate the stratification of arrhythmic risk and myocardial injury in baseline conditions or during follow-up phases of elderly heart failure patients with reduced ejection fraction.

Limitation of the study: Our data have provided encouraging results, but further evaluations are needed in order to apply these results to the whole population.

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