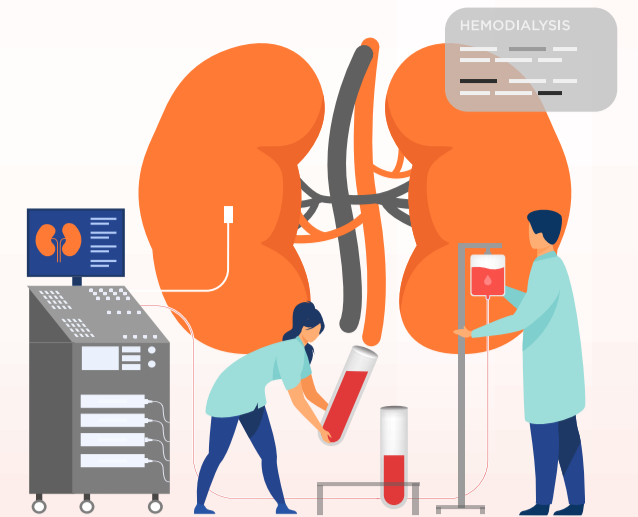


Darbepoetin Alfa Proves to be Economically Efficient in the Treatment of Renal Anemia



Does administering darbepoetin alfa at a lower dosage frequency contribute to cost savings?

Woodland *et al.* compared the cost of darbepoetin alfa and epoetin alfa and determined the dose conversion ratio over a 12-month period.

01



Study design

Prospective, parallel-group, randomized controlled trial of intravenous EPO and DA in hemodialysis patients

02



Study population and intervention

50 adult hemodialysis patients requiring ESA therapy (24 were randomized to the epoetin alfa arm and 26 to the darbepoetin arm).

03



Endpoints

Primary outcome: ESA cost (Can\$) per patient over 12 months

Secondary outcome: Dose conversion ratio and number of dose changes



Predicting the dose conversion ratio is key to determining the relative cost of ESA agents.

Dose conversion ratio

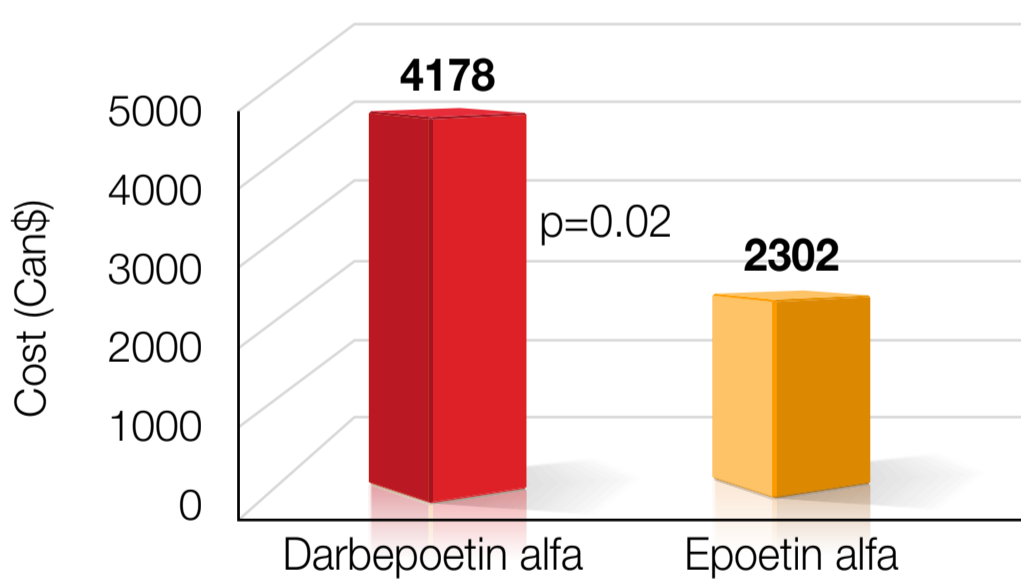
Run-in phase
280:1

3 months
360:1

6 months
382:1

Darbepoetin dose: epoetin dose

Total ESA cost (median cost over 12 months)



The median cost of darbepoetin alfa was **\$1875.78 less per year** than that of epoetin alfa.

Dose stabilization

Run-in phase

Median number of dose changes was **0** in both groups (p=0.38).

Active phase

Median number of dose changes was **2** in both groups.

Hemoglobin stability



Median number of weeks required to reach Hb stability by both groups (p=0.43)

Darbepoetin alfa demonstrates a considerable cost advantage compared to epoetin alfa, with a dose conversion ratio exceeding 350:1 per patient per year, supporting its cost-effectiveness.

Change for Better...Change to