

Intravenous Lansoprazole A Viewpoint by Neville Yeomans

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Intravenous formulations of proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) are useful for patients who cannot take the oral preparations, and also for obtaining rapid control of gastric acidity in high-risk patients with bleeding peptic ulcers.

Studies have shown that, as expected, intravenous lansoprazole 30mg has similar to slightly better acid-suppressing effects than oral lansoprazole 30mg. Averaged across the whole 24 hours, both formulations elevated gastric pH substantially in

volunteers, with no significant differences between the two preparations. Not surprisingly, the area under the plasma concentration curves and the maximum plasma concentrations of lansoprazole were slightly higher after a short intravenous infusion than an oral dose, and this is presumably why the onset of acid inhibition was a little faster with the intravenous dose. These differences presumably reflect the slightly higher bioavailability when a PPI is given parenterally. One study in patients with reflux oesophagitis demonstrated similar tolerability as well as similar acid inhibition after a week of either oral or intravenous dosing of lansoprazole.

The intravenous formulation of lansoprazole will be a useful addition to our armamentarium. ▲