A Review on Iron Chelators in Treatment of Iron Overload Syndromes

Naser Mobarra¹, Mehrnoosh Shanaki², Hassan Ehteram³, Hajar Nasiri⁴, Mehdi Sahmani⁵, Mohsen Saeidi⁶, Mehdi Goudarzi⁷, Hoda Pourkarim⁸, Mehdi Azad⁹

¹Metabolic Disorders Research Center, Department of Biochemistry, School of Medicine, Golestan University of Medical Sciences, Gorgan, Iran
²Department of Laboratory Medicine, School of Allied Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran
³Department of Pathology, School of Medicine, Kashan University of Medical Sciences, Kashan, Iran
⁴Hematology-Oncology and Stem Cell Transplantation Research Center, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran
⁵Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Cellular and Molecular Research Center, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Qazvin, Iran
⁶Stem Cell Research Center, Golestan University of Medical Sciences, Gorgan, Iran
⁷Department of Microbiology, School of Medicine, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran
⁸Department of Hematology, Allied Medical School, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran
⁹Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Allied Medicine, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Qazvin, Iran

Corresponding Author: Mehdi Azad, PhD. Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Faculty of Allied Medicine, Qazvin University of Medical Sciences, Qazvin, Iran
Tel: +982833359501
Fax: +982833338034
Email: haematologicca@gmail.com

ABSTRACT
Iron chelation therapy is used to reduce iron overload development due to its deposition in various organs such as liver and heart after regular transfusion. In this review, different iron chelators implicated in treatment of iron overload in various clinical conditions have been evaluated using more up-to-date studies focusing on these therapeutic agents. Deferoxamine, Deferiprone and Deferasirox are the most important specific US FDA-approved iron chelators. Each of these chelators has their own advantages and disadvantages, various target diseases, levels of deposited iron and clinical symptoms of the afflicted patients which may affect their selection as the best modality. Taken together, in many clinical disorders, choosing a standard chelator does not have an accurate index which requires further clarifications. The aim of this review is to introduce and compare the different iron chelators regarding their advantages and disadvantages, usage dose and specific applications.

Keywords: Chelators, Iron overload, Treatment

INTRODUCTION
Iron is one of the essential elements in body which its concentration is tightly regulated. Iron overload during iron deposition in multiple organs is along with serum ferri nucl value over than 1000 µg/L.¹ Iron overload, either genetically or acquired, may occur by several conditions such as frequent transfusions, abuse consumption of iron (often as supplement) and chronic hepatitis have potential to cause acquired iron overload.²⁻³ Among genetic disorders that causes iron overload including hereditary hemochromatosis (all types), African iron overload, sickle cell disease, major beta-thalassemia, sideroblastic anemia, enzyme de ciency (pyruvate kinase, G6PD) and rare disorders of transporting proteins (Atransferrinemia, Aceruloplasminemia),³⁻⁸ hereditary hemochromatosis is the most common genetic causes of iron overload.⁹ Small intestine in patient absorbs high level iron which accumulates in liver, pancreas and some parts of brain which results to impair vital functions.¹⁰ Free radical