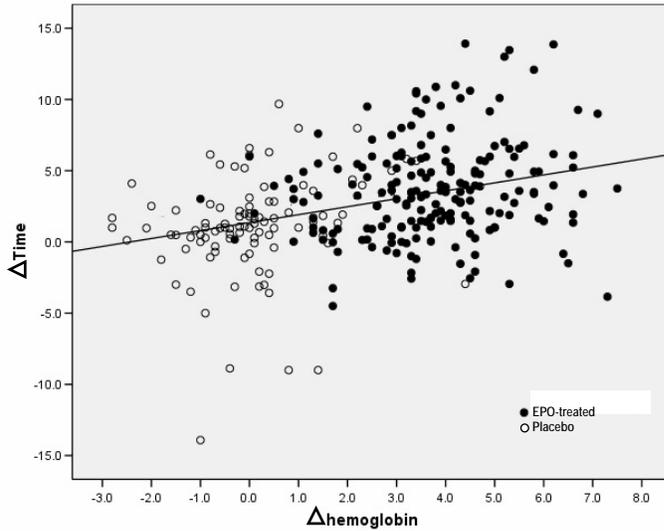


THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ACHIEVED HEMOGLOBIN (HB) & EXERCISE TOLERANCE.

Muirhead N, Keown P, Lei, L, Gitlin M, Mayne TJ, Churchill, D. Amgen, Thousand Oaks, CA, USA. We analyzed data from the Canadian Erythropoietin Study Group trial, a multi-center, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled trial of the effects of IV Epoetin alfa (EPO) on health-related quality of life in anemic hemodialysis patients. The trial included measures of exercise capacity (treadmill stress test and 6-minute walk test) as well as patient-reported physical function (Sickness Impact Profile and Kidney Disease Questionnaire).

Figure 1. Relationship between change in hemoglobin and change in minutes walked on the treadmill stress test in patients treated with EPO and placebo.



As shown, there was a clear response relationship between achieved hemoglobin & exercise tolerance: Each 1 g/dL increase in Hb was associated with ~1 additional minute walked on the treadmill. A similar relationship was seen with other measures of physical function. These results demonstrate a dose-response relationship between achieved Hb and physical function in EPO-treated dialysis patients.