

Erenumab discontinuation in migraine patients: final results of the APOLLON study

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Introduction

The monoclonal antibody erenumab is an anti-CGRP pathway target developed for the prevention of episodic and chronic migraine. A recent update to the EHF guideline on the use of monoclonal antibodies suggests pausing the treatment after 12 to 18 months. There is, however, only limited data on the impact of treatment discontinuation. This study aims to assess the significance of a drug holiday in patients treated with erenumab.

Methods

Patients enrolled in the 128-week open-label APOLLON study, assessing the long-term safety and tolerability of erenumab in migraine in 701 patients in Germany, were allowed to pause the treatment after 12 weeks of continuous treatment with erenumab. Impact of treatment discontinuation on monthly migraine days (MMD) was assessed 4 weeks prior to, during and 12 weeks after the medication-free epoch.

Results

This final analysis includes details on the drug holiday and its impact on the respective patients' MMD. Treatment interruption amounted to about 107 days (median). More than half the patients returned to treatment after drug holiday with the majority thereof returning to their previous dose. At drug holiday initiation, the average MMD was 4.2 ± 2.9 days. After an increase to 7.2 ± 5.7 MMD in the second month of treatment discontinuation, the average MMD decreased again to 4.5 ± 2.7 MMD within the first 2 months after the drug holiday.

Conclusion

Providing insights into the patients' response after erenumab treatment discontinuation and subsequently after the re-uptake of treatment, the results can further inform current guidelines on the treatment of migraine with the monoclonal antibody erenumab..

Disclosure

Hartmut Göbel received honoraria for consulting and lectures from Allergan, Almirall, Astra Zeneca, Bayer Vital, Berlin-Chemie, Bionorica, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, Elli Lilly, Fujisawa, GlaxoSmithKline, Grünenthal, Hermal, Hormosan, Ipsen-Pharma, Janssen-Cilag, Johnson&Johnson, Krewel-Meuselbach, Klosterfrau, Lichtwer, Menarini Pharma, Merz Pharmaceuticals, Minster Pharmaceuticals, MSD, Novartis Pharma, Pfizer, Pharmacia, Sandoz, Schaper und Brümmer, Schwarz-Pharma, Teva, Weber&Weber, Smith Kline Beecham.

Mirja Koch is an employee of Novartis AG.

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