Real World Experience of Gefapixant Prescribing

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Background

Gefapixant, a P2X3 antagonist, is licenced for the treatment of chronic cough. Currently, it is only marketed in Japan. We obtained gefapixant under an import licence from the UK MHRA. We report the first real-world experience of gefapixant in a UK setting.

Methods

Patients were prescribed 45 mg gefapixant bd for one week. Subjective symptom measures of cough after 1 week of treatment were recorded.

Results

12 patients (92% [n=10] female, mean [SD] age 64.4 [10.6]) were included. There were significant improvements in LCQ (11.6 [4.3] vs 16.0 [1.9], p=0.028). HARQ improved (39.1 [14.7] vs 21.3 [11.5], p=0.09) after treatment.
3 patients discontinued due to GI upset

Qualitative feedback

"prior to this I felt in so much pain, I did not want to be here, so the side effects are minimal in comparison"

"Feels like I can cope, previously I was at the end of my tether"

"I haven't coughed so much that I have vomited or wet myself"

"I am adapting to the taste disturbance. I am prepared to live with this"

"I can't say this drug has done anything or has had any effect except for loss of taste. I am so disappointed as I have been following the development of gefapixant"

"The biggest event for me this week was we had company and I got through the afternoon without coughing and felt able to join in the conversation"

"For the first time in years, I was able to attend a funeral and just be in the moment, not having to worry about were I sit , not having to worry about if my cough disturbs anyone"

"work is full on but the cough is now not impacting this, I feel a lot more controlled"

"I am now only having one coughing bout per day"

"Day 6 has been the worst day, with diarrhoea and bad taste. I am desperately disappointed"

Discussion

Over half of the patients wished to continue a self-funded prescription of gefapixant at £90 a week. Although numbers are small, changes in PROs are consistent with that seen in RCTs. Patients appear to respond rapidly in multiple aspects of cough.