Introduction

The literature supports, 30% pain improvement to be clinically significant—a success level that would be unacceptable in other areas of medicine. 2 Despite a wealth of treatment options, as many as 40% of patients treated for chronic pain do not attain adequate analgesia, which can lead to physical and social dysfunction and diminished quality of life.

Purpose

OPERA is an ongoing observational survey study of patents ages 18-64 who experience chronic neuropathic or radiculopathy pain. The study protocol did not dictate the treatment decisions for the patients (i.e., number of applications per day).

Methods

Eligible 180 patients and patient consent, data was collected beginning in 2011 in an open survey form completed by study participants from 19 American states. All data was recorded (e.g., patient demographics, pain, and general or functional weight).

Results

Table 1: Pain Characteristics (n= 158 for each)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Median</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>56.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female/Male</td>
<td>(n)</td>
<td>9/7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at Survey 1 (years)</td>
<td>49.8</td>
<td>18-91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Days Between Survey 1 &amp; 6</td>
<td>143.3</td>
<td>24.0-736</td>
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</table>

Use of OPI medications also decreased (p < 0.001) from 63.1% to 26.5% (P = .001).

Conclusions

- Results from the interim analysis suggest a hypothesis for the compound to explore as a potential candidate.4 For 3 months in this study only:
  - Pain reduction of 0.25 is meaningful for OPI.
  - Pain reduction of 0.5 is a potential milestone.
  - Pain reduction of 0.75 is a hopeful milestone.

References


Financial Disclosures

- Jeffery Gudin, MD1, Edmund Harris, MD2, Michael Brennan, MD3, Peter Hurwitz4, Derek Dietze5

- 1Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, Englewood, NJ, 2Safe Harbor Compliance and Clinical Services, LLC, Austin, TX, 3The Pain Center of Fairfield, Fairfield, CT, 4Clarity Research and Consulting, LLC, Austin, TX, 5Metrics for Learning, LLC, Queen Creek, AZ
Decreased Opioid Use and Pain Following Use of a Compounded Topical/Transdermal Analgesic: Third Interim Results from the Optimizing Patient Experience and Response to Topical Analgesics (OPERA) Observational Study

Jeffrey Gudin, MD1, Edmund Harris, MD2, Michael Brennan, MD3, Peter Hurwitz4, Derek Dietze5

Introduction

Opioid side effects are among the most frequent reasons for individuals to seek medical care.

Further complicating the issue, patients often experience chronic pain after multiple procedures and take multiple medications. Unlike traditional analgesics, topical/transdermal analgesics typically provide superior analgesia and fewer side effects that may be experienced by patients who have been through a series of procedures.

Methods

OPERA is an ongoing observational study of patients aged 18 who experience chronic non-cancer or non-malignant pain and who have previously undergone one or more surgical procedures to control chronic pain. The study continues to expand to include patients who receive treatment in multiple settings who are not patients in the original OPERA study. Overall, a total of 631 patients are being followed. After each patient visit, patients are asked to complete a survey of pain and health-related quality of life. These surveys are scored using the Brief Pain Inventory (BPI) Short Form, a generic self-assessment survey.

Tables 1 and 2 provide the patient characteristics and data of the OPERA study, respectively.

Conclusions

This is an observational study. The BPI Short Form (Severity and Interference components)—used with permission from MD Anderson.

Limitations

This is an observational study. Control group data from patients are being compared with test group data, and will be reported in a peer-reviewed publication.

References