ECONOMIC EVALUATION OF PHOTODYNAMIC THERAPY WITH VERTEPORFIN FOR PREDOMINANTLY CLASSIC, SUBFOVEAL CNV SECONDARY TO AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION

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OBJECTIVE: To assess the cost-effectiveness of photodynamic therapy (PDT) with verteporfin for the treatment of predominantly classic, subfoveal choroidal neovascularisation (CNV) secondary to age-related macular degeneration (AMD) relative to no treatment.

METHODS: This analysis examines the cost-effectiveness of PDT using verteporfin in patients with predominantly classic CNV secondary to AMD, based on results of the TAP study, a multicentre, double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled trial. Data on visual acuity levels were collected for 24 months, with an option of a further 12 months. Patients with visual acuity scores above the level of legal blindness in Australia (34 letters or less) were defined as not blind. The proportion of patients not legally blind at each three month interval was plotted on a ‘vision curve’, extrapolated to 60 months and the area under the curve calculated for each group. The difference in area under the curve between groups is the vision years gained from treatment. A costing analysis was also performed, based on an average of 3.4 treatments in the first year, 2.1 in the second year and 1.2 in the third year. Costs of permanent nursing home entry, home and community care, and falls—all resulting from declining vision—were also included in the analysis.

RESULTS: The incremental cost of PDT with verteporfin compared with no treatment varied between $13,762 and $15,031 over the five-year period, depending on assumptions made regarding data extrapolation. Vision years gained over this time varied between 0.7552 and 1.0389. This corresponds to an incremental cost per vision year gained between $13,246 and $19,903, which sensitivity analyses have shown to be robust to changes in the value of key variables.

CONCLUSIONS: PDT with verteporfin represents a cost-effective intervention in the proposed population. There is currently no alternative treatment for patients with predominantly classic, subfoveal CNV secondary to AMD.

EAR, EYE & SKIN DISEASES/DISORDERS—Quality of Life Presentations

THE PATIENTS’ PERCEPTION OF THEIR PSORIASIS AND ITS TREATMENT THROUGH A DIARY

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OBJECTIVES: The purpose of this study is to report preliminary findings of patient’s perception of their psoriasis and its treatment. SPOT is a longitudinal, prospective, observational, programme. 2000 patients with mild to moderate psoriasis will be recruited. (1000 Chronic Psoriasis Patient & 1000 New Psoriasis Patient).

METHODS: In this study, patients record, weekly, in a diary, their perception concerning satisfaction with treatment, its side-effects and how it has been applied.

RESULTS: At this time we received 220 diaries filled in during 4 weeks (50.7% of the patients followed since 4 weeks). The 2 populations are balanced. At the end of the first week, 14% of the population is unsatisfied with its treatment and 75% declared an improvement of their health state. The treatment compliance was evaluated, at the end of the first week 91% of the patients stated that they are treating themselves 5 days per week or more, and only 75% of the patients stated it at the end of the fourth week. In this first analysis we essentially focused on the most often expressed treatment’s side effects: Burning Sensation -BS-, Tearing Sensation (TS), Itching (I) and Drying (D). At the end of the fourth week, for each patient declaring a side-effect during the first week, one can note that the BS is reduced by 80%, the TS by 70%, the I by 57% and the D by 48%.

CONCLUSION: The first results of this program show evidence of the patients support towards those types of study and the methodology used. The non persistence of the most often expressed treatment’s side effects at the end of the 4 first weeks demonstrate that a relevant patient management is an alternative.

PSORIASIS AND EVERYDAY LIFE: FIRST RESULTS

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OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the effect of psoriasis on quality of life of patients in France.

METHOD: 4,500 anonymous questionnaires (comprised of two scales: the Psoriasis Disability Index (PDI) plus 10 questions concerning treatment and evolution of psoriasis) were sent, via a Psoriasis Patient Support Group (APLCP).

RESULTS: 2,423 questionnaires were returned: response rate 53%. An analysis of the first 1866 questionnaires was realised. The sex ratio Men (M)/Women (W) was: 47/53. Mean age: 51 years. Mean age of diagnosis: 22 years. The average to the total score was 9.64 (sd 5.2 rank 0 to 28) i.e. 21.6 (sd: 12.4) when reported to a scale of 0 to 100. No difference was observed between M and W for the global handicap score. Psoriasis had a greater adverse affect on 16–55 year-old patients in their social relationships, leisure activities and how well they keep their house than older subjects. Long-standing psoriasis did not cause more handicap to people than psoriasis