IMPACT OF TOPIRAMATE FOR MIGRAINE PROPHYLAXIS ON WORKPLACE PRODUCTIVITY: RESULTS FROM TWO U.S. RANDOMIZED, DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED, MULTICENTER TRIALS

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OBJECTIVE: To compare the impact of topiramate 100mg/day versus placebo on workplace productivity among individuals with migraine, using data from two six-month randomized, double-blind trials. METHODS: A five-item survey for each migraine attack captured the participants’ number of hours absent from work (“absenteeism”, A), number of hours worked with migraine (WM), and degree of effectiveness (E) while working with migraine. Presenteeism (P) was calculated as the product of WM and E. Total lost productivity was the sum of A and P. The mean monthly (28-day) rate of lost productivity per person at baseline and double-blind periods was compared between the study arms using Wilcoxon rank sum tests.

RESULTS: A total of 449 subjects were enrolled in the trials (226 topiramate, 223 placebo). Of these, 325 subjects reported any lost productivity at baseline (162 topiramate, 163 placebo). Mean ± SD age was 40 ± 11 years, 88.6% were female, and 91.1% were Caucasian. Demographic characteristics were similar between groups. The most common adverse events for topiramate in the clinical trials included paresthesia, nausea, anorexia, and fatigue. At baseline, the mean rates of total lost productivity were 10.4 hours/28 days for topiramate 100mg/d and 10.1 hours/28 days for placebo (not significant). Total lost productivity hours/28 days for topiramate 100mg/d versus placebo were 5.2 versus 6.3 in month 1, and 3.4 versus 4.8, 2.9 versus 4.4, 3.0 versus 4.4, 2.8 versus 4.7, and 2.8 versus 3.1 over the next five months. Improvements in productivity associated with topiramate 100mg/d in comparison with placebo were statistically significant (p < 0.05) in months 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. CONCLUSIONS: This is one of the first studies examining the impact of topiramate on workplace productivity, based on post-hoc analysis of randomized trials. Our findings suggest that topiramate 100mg/day may be associated with improvements in productivity among individuals with migraine.