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Two-year outcome of Galantamine treatment in Alzheimer’s disease in a routine clinical setting

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Long-term galantamine treatment in a routine clinical setting resulted in a positive effect in cognitive tests compared to historical controls and mathematical models. After 2 years of treatment a positive global outcome was observed in half of the patients. Dropout was less than expected.

Introduction

Alzheimer’s disease (AD) is the major cause of dementia in the elderly and is a devastating disease for patients and their families experiencing a gradual loss of functions and independence. Multiple double blind, placebo controlled studies have shown beneficial effects of galantamine treatment on cognition and function. What to expect in long-term treatment in a routine clinical setting has not been investigated. The Swedish Alzheimer Treatment Study (SATS) is a prospective, open, longitudinal, multicenter study evaluating cholinesterase inhibitor (ChEI) treatment in AD. Patients are investigated at baseline, at 2 months and every 6 months for a total period of three years. Here we present the two-year outcome for the first 122 patients receiving the ChEI galantamine in SATS.

Objective

To evaluate the two-year outcome on cognition (MMSE, ADAS-cog) and global rating (CIBIC) in a routine clinical setting. To evaluate dropout.

Methods and Subjects

The first 122 patients receiving galantamine in the SATS for two years were investigated in this study. Patients were assessed with MMSE, ADAS-cog (0-70) and global rating (CIBIC) in a routine clinical setting. To evaluate treatment in a routine clinical setting has not been investigated.

Baseline characteristics

Patients(n) 122
Gender (male/female) 48 / 74
Age, mean ± SD, years 72.3±7.7
Duration, mean ± SD, 3.0±2.0
MMSE, mean ± SD mean, (n) 23.2 ± 4.2
ADAS-cog (0-70), mean ± SD, (n) 17.2 ± 8.4

Results

The mean galantamine dose was 15.5 - 19.8 mg/day.

The mean MMSE score remained above baseline for one year. After two years of treatment the total mean decline from baseline in MMSE-score was 1.6 points (95% CI, 0.6 - 2.6). (Shaded area 2-4 points/year, expected decline).

Half of the patients were considered unchanged or better in the CIBIC-rating after two years of treatment. After two years 94 patients (78%) remained in the study.

Conclusion

The Swedish Alzheimer Treatment Study Group

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"Swedish"