Long acting dopamine agonists in clinical practice: a comparative multicentre European survey in young and old PD.

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OBJECTIVE: To address comparative tolerability/retention rates (minimum 6 months use) of prolonged release dopamine agonists (DRAs) such as rotigotine skin patch (RTG), ropinirole (ROP) and pramipexole (PPX) extended release in an European real life population base using post marketing surveillance.

BACKGROUND:

• Comparative tolerability/retention rate of prolonged release DAs are unknown in real life clinical populations which include patients over 75 years of age.
• Tolerability can be addressed by criteria as suggested by Shulman et al (treatment classed as “tolerated” if sustained for six months or more)
• Specifically side effect issues such as development of impulse control disorder (ICD) during treatment with prolonged release DAs and tolerability of non oral DAs such as RTG in patients with swallowing difficulties have not been studied in detail.

RESULTS 1:

• 99 of 120 assessable patients (83.5%) on RTG tolerated the drug, 98/107 (91.6%) tolerated ROP XL and 33/37 tolerated PPX PR (89.2%).
• No significant differences of tolerability were observed between the prolonged release DAs or between the age groups (graph 2).
• 33 of the 315 evaluated cases (10.5%) report treatment with dual agonists (mostly oral and patch). 4 of those were intolerant of this treatment.

RESULTS 2:

• 32 cases (10.2%) reported impulse control disorders (ICD), of which 30 were exposed to oral DA.
• Discontinuation due to ICD was reported in 2/140 cases (1.4%) on RTG, 4/120 cases (3.3%) on ROP XL and 1/45 cases (2.2%) on PPX PR.
• 4 cases with ICD on PPX/ROP reported attenuation of ICD when started on RTG patch.
• 25/121 assessed patients (24.8%) suffered from swallowing difficulties, 84.0% of which preferred patch to oral therapy.


ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: We acknowledge grant support from PDNMG and all members of EUROPAR.