Impact of a community pharmacy-based information protocol on multiple sclerosis patients’ adherence to treatment with dimethyl fumarate: T E C P H I E, a randomized study vs usual practice (methodology).

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Conclusions

• This study will be able to rigorously assess the impact on adherence of information provided by pharmacists to adult patients with relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis treated with dimethyl fumarate.

Introduction

• Dimethyl fumarate is an oral compound indicated for the treatment of adult patients with relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis.
• Adherence to treatment may be impacted by drug delivery method as well as side effects.
• Although the neurologist remains the primary point-of-contact for MS patients, the retail pharmacist has the opportunity to play a key role in improving patient care by providing individually-tailored information at the start of treatment.

Objectives

• To assess the impact on adherence (measured by the Medication Possession Ratio: MPR*) of motivational interviews provided by retail pharmacists in France to patients starting treatment with delayed-release dimethyl fumarate 120 mg.

* MPR = number of tablets actually taken by the patient
number of tablets to be taken over a given period

Methods

• TECPHIE is a 12-month, observational, randomized, prospective multicenter study conducted in France by retail pharmacists.
• Two groups of pharmacists and visit schedules are to be examined:
  o one providing 6 motivational interviews in addition to the usual drug delivery (figure 1)
  o one delivering drug in the standard manner (figure 2).
• Motivational interviews will consist of discussions of different topics in response to patient requests (information about treatment, side effects, or disease; and advice for daily living).
• The primary endpoint is the therapy adherence measured by the Medication Possession Ratio (MPR*) at 12 months.
• Several secondary endpoints will also be evaluated, such as:
  o persistence to treatment
  o use of medical resources measured by a questionnaire
  o patients’ satisfaction with treatment as measured by the TQSM (Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire for Medication)
  o patients’ satisfaction with pharmaceutical interviews.
• The required patient sample size of 150 was calculated based on an estimated adherence of 70% in usual care and an increase of 15% to 20% in the interview group. To account for an estimated 30% loss to follow-up, 196 patients (98 per group) will be enrolled.

Results

• Recruitment began in December 2016.
• As of September 2017, 60 pharmacists have been recruited and 40 patients have been enrolled; LPI is expected in March 2018.

Figure 1. Schedule of visits for group with interviews

Figure 2. Schedule of visits for group without interviews

Disclosures: YM: member of the scientific committee of the TECPHIE study and investigator of the study, he has received honoraria from Biogen France SAS; PT: member of the scientific committee of the TECPHIE study, he has received honoraria from Biogen France SAS; FH: employee of Biogen France SAS; HM: consultant for Biogen France SAS; LM: employee of Biogen France SAS; PT: member of the scientific committee of the TECPHIE study, he has received honoraria for it from Biogen France SAS; GD: consultant for Biogen France SAS; LM: employee of Biogen France SAS; PM: employee of Biogen France SAS; PT: member of the scientific committee of the TECPHIE study and investigator of the study, he has received honoraria for it from Biogen France SAS; EH: employee of Biogen France SAS.