COMPLIANCE OF PATIENTS WITH ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE TO TREATMENT WITH TRANSDERMAL RIVASTIGMINE AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND TOLERABILITY IN DAILY PRACTICE

G. Adler\textsuperscript{1}, K. Articus\textsuperscript{2}

\textsuperscript{1}Institut für Studien zur Psychischen Gesundheit (ISPG), Mannheim, \textsuperscript{2}Novartis Pharma GmbH, Nürnberg, Germany

Introduction: Non-compliance to drug therapy is a major issue in the elderly with often multiple and chronic diseases. Transdermal drug formulations may improve treatment compliance in such patient populations.

Aims: To assess compliance to treatment of Alzheimer's disease (AD) with transdermal rivastigmine in daily practice.

Methods: This was a prospective, multi-centre, non-interventional study in Germany. Eligible were patients with AD switching treatment to transdermal rivastigmine. Outcome measures were drug compliance, Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE) score, Global Clinical Impression (GCI) score, drug tolerability as assessed by the physician, and the incidence of adverse events (AE) over 5 to 7 months of treatment. In the following, first preliminary results prior to database lock are provided.

Results: Overall, 1103 patients, 634 women (57.5\%) and 468 men (42.4\%), with a mean age of 78.0±7.1 years were enrolled; 344 patients (31.2\%) were treated with a cholinesterase inhibitor or memantine for the first time, 768 (68.8\%) changed therapy, mostly due to lacking effectiveness (46.1\%) or poor tolerability (16.8\%) of the previous treatment. Five to 7 months after treatment initiation, 929 patients (84.2\%) of patients were still on treatment, 75.0\% of them on the target dose of 9.5 mg/day; only 32 patients (2.9\%) discontinued transdermal rivastigmine due to lack of compliance. Over the whole observation period, the mean MMSE improved from 19.0±5.1 to 20.0±5.1 and GCI in 67.5\% of patients. Tolerability and safety was good. Final data will be presented on the congress.

Conclusion: Transdermal rivastigmine appears to be an effective treatment alternative offering high patient compliance.