EFFECT OF COMBINATION THERAPY WITH MEMANTINE AND RIVASTIGMINE PATCH ON AGITATION BEHAVIOR IN PATIENTS WITH MILD TO MODERATE ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE: A 24-WEEK PROSPECTIVE, MULTICENTER, RANDOMIZED, OPEN-LABEL CLINICAL TRIAL


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Background: Memantine has a distinct mode of action compared with that of acetylcholinesterase (AChE) inhibitors and combination therapy with memantine plus AChE inhibitors in moderate to severe Alzheimer’s disease (AD) improved outcomes on agitation/aggression. Improved GI tolerability of rivastigmine has been established with rivastigmine transdermal patch. We investigated the efficacy of rivastigmine patch and memantine combination therapy on agitation in mild to moderate AD.

Method: The authors conducted a 24-week, prospective, multicenter, randomized, open-label clinical trial to assess the efficacy of combination therapy with rivastigmine patch and memantine in subjects with mild to moderate AD. Patients started rivastigmine patches. Memantine was combined from 9 weeks and continued throughout the study. A total of 206 patients were enrolled. The Korean version of the Cohen-Mansfield Agitation Inventory (CMAI-K) administered and the CMAI-K data was collected in 156 patients.

Results: The AD patients were grouped into four by disease severity and treatment drug(s). There was no significant difference in age, sex, education of the four groups. Mixed ANOVA analysis with AD severity and treatment as between-subjects factors and with time as within-subjects factor showed that combination treatment group was deteriorated slightly but not significantly in agitation behavior (p>0.05) in total CMAI-K score while that in single treatment group was a little eased off without significant change.

Conclusions: This study showed that there were no significant benefits on agitation in mild to moderate AD patients receiving combination therapy with rivastigmine patch and memantine.