RASAGILINE SHOWS SIGNIFICANT CLINICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN A PMS STUDY FROM AUSTRIA

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Background: Rasagiline is a potent, highly selective, irreversible, monoamine oxidase type-B (MAO-B) inhibitor. Rasagiline (1 mg, once daily) is indicated for the treatment of idiopathic Parkinson’s disease (PD) as monotherapy, or as adjunct therapy (with levodopa) in patients with end-of-dose fluctuations.

This post-marketing observational study (PMS) assessed the efficacy and tolerability of rasagiline in daily clinical practice with focus on patient’s benefits and changes in their condition during treatment.

Methods: In this 12-week PMS, 436 patients with idiopathic PD received treatment according to their physician’s recommendations. Study visits were at baseline and at week 12.

Efficacy measures included Hoehn&Yahr Scale, assessment of symptom severity and duration of daily OFF and ON time. Adverse drug reactions, changes in concomitant anti-Parkinsonian medication and global treatment success and tolerability were also recorded.

Results: Daily OFF time was reduced from 3 hours at baseline to 1.7 hours and Daily ON time increased from 10.6 hours at baseline to 11.8 hours (mean) after 12 weeks.

Over the 12-week period, all observed symptoms (tremor, rigor, akinesia, gait, parkinsonism, dyskinesia) improved significantly.

73% of physicians did not change concomitant medication during treatment. Changes consisted mainly of reduction or discontinuation of dopaminergic therapy.

In this PMS rasagiline demonstrated excellent safety and tolerability similar to previous studies.

Conclusion: Under everyday conditions, treatment with rasagiline led to a significant improvement in all observed symptoms in PD patients in every stage of the disease. Rasagiline was safe and well tolerated.