Frovatriptan as Preemptive Treatment for Fasting-Induced Migraine

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OBJECTIVE:
To examine frovatriptan's efficacy as preemptive treatment for fasting-induced migraine.

BACKGROUND:
Fasting is a common trigger of migraine. Since it cannot always be avoided, the development of a short-term preemptive approach would benefit migraineurs. Frovatriptan, because of its longer half-life, has been effectively used for short-term daily use to prevent menstrually related migraines, and might prove useful in the prevention of fasting-induced migraine.

METHODS:
I Double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized, parallel-group trial.
I Subjects with a history of fasting-induced episodic migraine were randomly assigned to receive either frovatriptan 5.0 mg. or placebo (ratio 1:1).
I Subjects took a single dose of study medication at the start of their 20-hour fast.
I Headache development, severity, and rescue use were captured at defined time points from the start of the fast through 20 hours after the start of the fast.

RESULTS:
I 75 subjects screened; 74 randomized.
I All subjects who took study drug were included in safety analyses (N=71).
I 67 subjects included in efficacy analyses.
I There was no statistical difference between the 2 treatment groups with respect to the development of a headache (Pearson Chi-Square, p=0.172).
I Kaplan-Meier (KM) survival analysis showed no difference between the 2 treatment groups with respect to the time of onset of a headache of any intensity (Log Rank, p=0.264). There was also no difference between the 2 groups with respect to the time of onset of a headache of moderate or severe intensity (Log Rank, p=0.634).

CONCLUSION:
I More subjects on placebo developed a headache than did those on frovatriptan.
I Our pilot study did not achieve statistical significance, perhaps because of the small number of subjects.
I Because of frovatriptan’s effectiveness as a short-term preventive for menstrual migraine, a larger study to address the effectiveness of frovatriptan for the prevention of fasting-induced migraine may be warranted.

REFERENCES:
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