

Satisfaction and practicality of the branded glatiramer acetate pen in RRMS patients - COP-APPLY Study

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Background

For some injectable relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS) drugs, various administration devices are available, providing patients with more choice. This is true for branded glatiramer acetate (GA; 40 mg/mL), which is available as a pre-filled syringe (PFS; with or without an auto-injector (GA-device)), and recently, as a single-use pre-filled pen (PFP). Patient preferences for drug devices may impact drug selection and treatment adherence.

Objective

This study evaluated practicality and patient satisfaction of the GA-PFP for patients with RRMS who either used the 40 mg/mL pen for the first time or switched from an alternative GA device (GA PFS, with or without auto-injector).

Methods

In this cross-sectional, multicentre, open-label, observational Phase IV study, patients with RRMS rated their self-administered pen use experiences via self-reporting questionnaires 3 months after their first use. Patients satisfaction was measured using a 0-10 visual analogue scale (VAS; 0: not satisfied... 10: completely satisfied).

The primary endpoint assessed the overall percentage of patients who were satisfied with the pen (defined as VAS \geq 6).

Secondary endpoints were ease-of-use of the pen (measured on a four-point Likert scale) and identification of the three most favourable device functions from a list of twelve options.

Results

80 patients with RRMS were enrolled; median age 41.8 years; 70% female; mean duration of RRMS 6.8 years; mean number of pre-treatments 0.4. Overall, 84% (67/80) of patients were satisfied with the pen. 95% (77/80) reported it as being 'very easy' or 'easy' to use. The three most favorable device functions were: easy to start injection, no injection button, pen sits comfortably in hand when starting'.

Application satisfaction questionnaire

Please choose one of the four answers for the ease of use of the Pen:
Answer: very difficult difficult easy very easy

Please rate your satisfaction of the Copaxone Pen for your MS therapy from zero (not satisfied) to ten (completely satisfied):
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Please rate the answers on a scale from zero (fully disagree) to ten (fully agree):

- Few steps to prepare the pen for injection is useful
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- The hidden needle gives increased comfort
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- It's useful to start the injection without an injection button
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- It is easy to start the injection
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Fig. 1: Extract of the Questionnaire

Ease-of-use



Fig. 2: Satisfaction ease of use

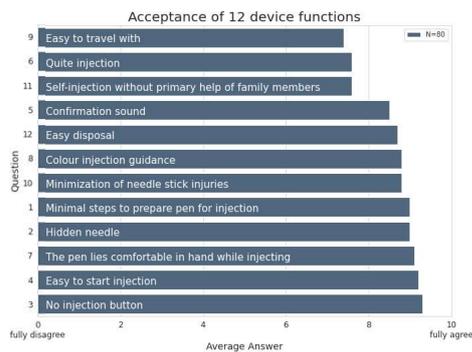


Fig. 3: Rating of device functions

Conclusion

In this study patients reported high levels of satisfaction with the pen and majority of them found the pen very easy or easy-to-use. Since treatment satisfaction is known to significantly impact patient adherence and persistence to medication (Barbosa 2012), these findings may translate into improved treatment outcomes.

References

Barbosa CD, et al. Patient Prefer Adherence 2012;6:39–48

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