Evaluation of Comorbid Conditions Among Refractory or Unexplained Chronic Cough Patients in Two Phase 2 Randomized Controlled Trials

BACKGROUND

A subset of patients with chronic cough (ie, cough lasting ≥8 weeks) may have
- Refractory chronic cough (RCC): refractory to treatment for conditions associated with chronic cough
- Unexplained chronic cough (UCC); an accurate diagnosis of a condition associated with chronic cough cannot be identified

Common possible etiologies include
- Asthma
- Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)
- Rhinitis

RCC/UCC patients often endure
- Years of cough with no symptom relief
- Multiple investigations involving referrals to specialists
- Multiple misdiagnoses
- Unsuccessful treatments with multiple medications

Participants were enrolled in two phase 2 studies

1. Study 1: two-cohort (16 days each), randomized, controlled studies of the P2X3 receptor antagonist gefapixant
2. Study 2: 12-week, randomized, controlled, parallel-group study conducted in the US (NCT02612610) and in the UK and Ireland (NCT02612610)

METHODS

Participants were enrolled in two phase 2 studies
- Study 1: 12-week randomized, controlled, parallel-group study conducted in the US and UK (NCT02612610)
- Study 2: 12-week, randomized, controlled, parallel-group study conducted in the US and UK (NCT02612610)

Prior Diagnoses and Comorbid Conditions (Studies 1 and 2 Pooled)

Prior Diagnoses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medication</th>
<th>GERD (total)</th>
<th>Asthma (total)</th>
<th>Rhinitis (total)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Omeprazole</td>
<td>60 (19.3%)</td>
<td>27 (9.3%)</td>
<td>52 (17.7%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Benzonatate</td>
<td>6 (2.1%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fluticasone</td>
<td>6 (2.1%)</td>
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<td>Salbutamol</td>
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LIMBITIONS

These studies were not designed to capture full/detailed work up of chronic cough patients (medical history was limited to within 30 days of treatment); year for cough treatment

CONCLUSIONS

Multiple, overlapping co-morbid conditions are diagnosed and treated in patients with chronic cough, even in those who are cared for in specialist centers and in whom the cough remains refractory to such treatments. This represents a very significant burden for patients undergoing multiple treatment failures

References

Funding

Merck & Co., Inc. on Twitter

Any questions? Please contact

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