

PATIENT TREATMENT SATISFACTION AFTER SWITCHING TO BIWEEKLY SUBCUTANEOUS PEGINTERFERON BETA 1A FROM INTRAMUSCULAR INTERFERON BETA 1A

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BACKGROUND

Peginterferon beta-1a (PEGIFN β -1a) is administered subcutaneously biweekly which is an advantage over other treatment schedules used in multiple sclerosis (MS) patients.

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PURPOSE

To compare treatment satisfaction in MS patients treated with interferon beta-1a (IFN β -1a) intramuscular (30 mcg weekly) after switching to PEGIFN β -1a 125mcg administered subcutaneously every 2 weeks.

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METHODS

- ✓ Prospective multicenter study.
- ✓ Adult MS patients switching from weekly intramuscular IFN β -1a to biweekly subcutaneous PEGIFN β -1a were included.
- ✓ Patient satisfaction was measured according to Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire for Medication (TSQM) which consists of 14 items scaled on a 5- to 7-point bipolar scale. Items are combined into four summary scores: effectiveness, side effects, convenience and overall satisfaction. Higher scores imply higher satisfaction.
- ✓ The Wilcoxon signed-rank test was used for evaluating the differences.
- ✓ Study was approved by Ethics Committee.

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RESULTS

35 patients were included:
 • Mean age(\pm SD) =44,9 \pm 8,6 years
 • Female 74,4 %

	IFN β -1a IM	PEGIFN β -1a SC	p
Effectiveness	16,0 \pm 2,9	14,2 \pm 3,9	0,01
Q1. Ability to treat condition	5,4 \pm 1,4	4,9 \pm 1,5	0,03
Q2. Ability to relieve symptoms	5,3 \pm 1,2	4,9 \pm 1,4	0,06
Q3. Time it takes medication to start working	5,3 \pm 0,9	4,5 \pm 1,4	<0,01
% who report side effects	94,1%	93,9%	
Q4. Side effects	13,5 \pm 2,8	12,3 \pm 2,9	0,08
Q5. Bothersomeness of side effects	3,0 \pm 0,7	2,8 \pm 0,8	0,18
Q6. Interfere with physical function	2,9 \pm 0,8	3,0 \pm 1	0,64
Q7. Interfere with mental function	4,0 \pm 1,1	3,7 \pm 0,9	0,18
Q8. Impact overall satisfaction	3,6 \pm 1	2,8 \pm 1,1	0,01

	IFN β -1a IM	PEGIFN β -1a SC	p
Convenience	15,3 \pm 2,8	16,9 \pm 2,6	<0,01
Q9. Ease/difficulty of use	4,8 \pm 1,2	5,8 \pm 0,9	<0,01
Q10. Ease/difficulty of planning to use	5,2 \pm 1,1	5,6 \pm 0,9	0,05
Q11. Convenience of taking as instructed	5,3 \pm 1,3	5,6 \pm 1,1	0,15
Overall satisfaction	13,1 \pm 2,4	11,9 \pm 3,2	0,02
Q12. Confidence that taking medication is good	4,9 \pm 1,5	3,6 \pm 1	0,01
Q13. Certainty that good things outweigh bad	4,9 \pm 1,4	3,5 \pm 1	0,02
Q14. Satisfaction with medication	5,2 \pm 1,2	4,8 \pm 1,4	0,08

- Intramuscular IFN β -1a was the first-line treatment for 88,6% of patients
- Treatment duration before change= 64,4 \pm 50,5 months
- 11,4% of patients returned to IM IFN β -1a

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CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ Switching from im IFN β -1a to sc PEGIFN β -1a resulted in better convenience and similar reported rate of adverse effects although overall satisfaction was lower.

Conflict of interest: nothing to disclose

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