

MIGLUSTAT OFF-LABEL IN PAEDIATRIC FORMULATION FOR A RARE METABOLIC DISEASE: EARLY INFANTILE GM1-GANGLIOSIDOSIS

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Background

GM1-Gangliosidosis, a rare metabolic disease, is an autosomal recessive lysosomal storage disorder caused by a deficiency of beta-galactosidase, and characterized by the generalized accumulation of GM1 ganglioside. The most severe form, called type I or early infantile, progressively destroys the neurons and the cells of the spinal cord. No pharmacological therapy is now available and children affected by GM1 type I usually do not survive past the age of three. Miglustat (N-butyldeoxynojirimycin) is an iminosugar that works as a competitive and reversible inhibitor of glucosylceramide-synthase, the initial enzyme in reactions resulting in the synthesis of most glycosphingolipids. It is indicated in some lysosomal storage diseases and it also had positive results in GM2-Gangliosidosis.

Purpose

To describe our experience in the 12-month-long treatment with galenic formulation of Miglustat, on a patient affected by GM1-Gangliosidosis.

Materials and Methods

The “Centro Regionale Malattie Rare” of “Azienda Ospedali Riuniti di Ancona”, in July 2011, has involved our Hospital Pharmacy (authorization, galenic compounding) to use Miglustat on a 18-months old child with GM1-Gangliosidosis type I. The child had a normal psychomotor development until the age of 13-18 months. He had clearly shown severe signs of the pathology since the age of two, such as regression of psychomotor development, absence of speech and poor environmental participation. We started Miglustat lacking any other therapy.

Miglustat is off-label for this indication, thus approvation of the Ethic Committee has been necessary with the duty to report results every three months. Informed consent from parents was also requested. Zavesca® is commercially available as 100 mg capsules. The Galenic Laboratory of the hospital pharmacy prepared personalized capsules for hospital and home administration, with different doses (from 30mg/d to 210 mg/d in 3 times) to facilitate the administration of the drug to the little patient. The capsules have been prepared by Zavesca®, exclusively using mannitol as excipient: lactose is to be avoided in GM1-Gangliosidosis.

The image shows two medical forms. The left form is a 'Dichiarazione di assunzione di responsabilità per l'uso off-label' from the Azienda Ospedaliera-Università Ospedali Riuniti G. Salesi. It contains fields for patient name, date of birth, and a declaration of responsibility for the off-label use of Miglustat. The right form is a 'RICHIESTA DI PREPARATO GALENICO MAGISTRALE' from the same institution, containing fields for patient name, date of birth, and a request for a galenic formulation of Miglustat.

Results

Miglustat has provided surprisingly early results. It improved motor neuron symptomatology with better environmental participation and autonomous and voluntary movements. However, this important improvement has only occurred in the first four weeks of treatment, followed by a standstill. Meanwhile, frequent infections and seizures, typical of the disease, occurred later.

Conclusion

Treatment is still used, but after 12 months, we are considering stopping the therapy. It would be important to compare other experiences in order to better evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment.

References

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