

PO-104

Lacosamide in the Treatment of Chronic Headache and Migraine Disorders

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Objectives: We studied a new anticonvulsant, lacosamide, in the prophylaxis of chronic daily headaches [CDH] and mixed chronic migraine disorders.

Background: Lacosamide is a new anti-convulsant with a unique mechanism of action that enhances the slow inactivation of voltage-gated sodium channels in nerve. Because other sodium channel agents have been shown to have efficacy in the prophylaxis of chronic headache disorders, we chose to study this agent in our clinic population who had failed multiple other medication trials for their headaches.

Methods: We studied 22 patients who had failed up to 6-7 other prophylaxis agents for chronic migraines, CDH and mixed headache disorders with neck/TMD pain. 22 Patients were treated with daily lacosamide in increasing doses, averaging 10-14 days between dosage changes. Average lacosamide dosage per day was 165 mg. 14 patients (64%) had neck pain or TMD co-existent with migraines and CDH.

Results: Average lacosamide treatment was 94 days at the above dosage. The number of headache and migraine days per month at onset of lacosamide treatment was 21.4 (12-30 days per month). After therapy, the average headache and migraine days per month reduced to 13 per month ($p < .05$, 2 tailed t test). 4 patients had no response, mainly due to side effects such as nausea, cognitive complaints or drowsiness. 11 of 14 (79%) patient with co-existent pain also reported a reduction of about 47% of their symptoms.

Conclusions: We conclude that lacosamide may offer a newer approach to prophylaxis of CDH and chronic migraine. It has a novel mechanism of action on sodium channel function in nerve, and should be studied rigorously in a double-blind manner.

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