



Switching from Oral Donepezil to a Twice-weekly Korean Transdermal Donepezil Patch in Dementia with Parkinson’s Disease

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Background

Family caregivers play a crucial role in administering and managing medications for patients with dementia associated with Parkinson’s disease (d-PD). This study aimed to assess caregivers’ satisfaction with and preference for a transdermal donepezil patch compared with conventional oral formulations in patients with d-PD, with the goal of maximizing treatment effectiveness. Because patients with Parkinson’s disease are frequently exposed to polypharmacy, reducing the number of oral medications may improve adherence and reduce the burden of medication management for caregivers.

Methods

This 12-week open-label study evaluated a 175 mg twice-weekly Korean transdermal donepezil patch in comparison with a 10 mg oral donepezil tablet in patients with d-PD. After switching from oral medication to the transdermal patch, caregiver expectations and satisfaction were assessed at baseline and at week 12 using the Korean version of the Alzheimer’s Disease Caregiver Preference Questionnaire (ADCPQ-K, modified version). Safety and tolerability were also evaluated.

Results

Thirty three caregivers completed the ADCPQ-K assessment. Caregivers initially had high expectations regarding the convenience of the twice-weekly transdermal patch. However, several practical issues and adverse events were reported, including inconvenience related to patch application, patch detachment (20%), and cutaneous reactions such as rash and pruritus (13%). Overall, 68% of caregivers reported greater satisfaction with the patch compared with the oral tablet. During the switching phase, concomitant administration of oral donepezil 10 mg and the 175 mg transdermal patch on day 1 was well tolerated, likely attributable to the relatively long half-life of the transdermal formulation, allowing gradual systemic exposure.

Conclusions

The twice-weekly transdermal donepezil patch may represent a useful alternative to oral therapy for patients with dementia associated with Parkinson’s disease, potentially reducing oral medication burden. However, real-world use revealed practical limitations, including inconvenience during patch application, patch detachment, and cutaneous adverse reactions, which may affect caregiver satisfaction.

Results

Table 1. Baseline caregiver and patient demographic characteristics

Characteristic	PDD (Male) n=15	PDD (Female) N=18
Age (patient) Mean (SD)	74.3 (4.5)	76.2 (4.7)
Regimen		
Doepezil 10mg Tablet	15	18
to Doepezil 175mg Transdermal Patch (twice- weekly)	15 15	18 18
Gender (caregiver)		
Men	6	8
Women	9	10
Relation to patient		
Spouse	10	11
Child (or child in law)	5	7

All the patients and caregiver are live together

Table 2. *Preference outcomes at week 12

Caregiver preference	Population	Proportion
Patch preferred over all at week 12	M	0.69
	F	0.59
Patch preferred on ease of use at week 12	M	0.69
	F	0.67
Patch preferred on ease of following schedule at week 12	M	0.45
	F	0.41

Despite high satisfaction with the transdermal patch, the intention to continue using this mode of administration over the long term was comparatively lower in PDD (P<0.05)

References*

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