E-Poster

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Measuring Spasticity-Related Pain: The Need for a Standard Approach to Ensure Optimal Patient Management

Topic: Pain

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BACKGROUND

Patients with spasticity of varying etiologies often suffer from pain associated with muscle spasms and the development of contractures. Spasticity-related pain can be a barrier to rehabilitation and recovery and impair quality of life. Therefore, it is important to monitor the management of pain in these patients to ensure the most effective treatments.

METHODS

A systematic literature review (SLR) evaluated journal publications between 1990 and 2023, and congress proceedings between 2020 and 2023, on the use of onabotulinumtoxinA in the management of pain associated with spasticity. Studies reporting a pain measure for adults with spasticity of any etiology, who received treatment with onabotulinumtoxinA, were included. Standard Cochrane methodology for conducting an SLR was followed.

RESULTS

Over the 31 studies identified in the SLR, nine different scales were used to measure pain. OnabotulinumtoxinA was found to reduce pain in adults with spasticity in 27 of these studies and across all pain measures used. However, comparison across the studies was difficult due to the variation in scales used, and even differences in ratings and anchors for the same measure, and consequently statistical analysis was not possible. The most commonly used measure of pain was the visual analog scale (11 studies), followed by the numerical rating scale (9 studies) and the disability assessment scale (7 studies). Six additional pain measures were used including McGill pain questionnaire, Neuropathic Pain Symptom Inventory, Fugl-Meyer, patient evaluation of global response and sub-domains of generic instruments, such as the EQ-5D, SF-36 and SF-6D.

CONCLUSION

An overall positive trend for onabotulinumtoxinA in reducing pain in adults with spasticity was found. There is no one accepted pain measure for patients with spasticity making it challenging to assess pain management. There is a need for a standardized, validated measure of spasticity-related pain to support treatment decisions.

Statement of Disclosures

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