(W10) RELATIVE EFFICACY OF REPEAT COURSE OF INTRAVENOUS METHYLPREDNISOLONE AND INTRAMUSCULAR ADRENOCORTICOTROPIN IN THE TREATMENT OF ACUTE RELAPSE OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AFTER SUBRESPONSE TO INITIAL COURSE OF INTRAVENOUS METHYLPREDNISOLONE (RECLAIM): A SINGLE-CENTER PILOT STUDY
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Background: Multiple sclerosis (MS) disease-modifying agents in development have robust efficacy in the reduction of relapses, yet patients continue to have ongoing relapses. Patients may develop residual disability with each relapse, and while many patients respond to an initial course of intravenous methylprednisolone (IVMP), many fail to return to their prerelapse baseline. The lack of established treatment protocols for patients with an acute MS relapse who fail to recover after treatment with high-dose corticosteroids has created the need for controlled clinical trials to study this population. This ongoing single-center, randomized, double-blind, double-dummy trial compares the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of a repeat course of 3 days of IVMP and 5 days of intramuscular (IM) adrenocorticotropin (ACTH) in the treatment of an acute relapse of MS after subresponse to an initial 3-day course of IVMP. The rationale behind the treatment arms are that IVMP and IM ACTH have different mechanisms of action, yet both have demonstrated first-line efficacy in treating acute relapses. There has never been a comparative trial of these treatments after subresponse to the initial course of IVMP. This study fills a gap in knowledge, as the difficulty facing clinicians is what to do if IVMP does not return patients to their prerelapse neurologic baseline. Objectives: The primary objective is to compare ACTH 80 U IM for 5 days with IVMP 1 g daily for 3 days in terms of improvement in Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS) and Functional Scales for patients with an acute relapse of MS after subresponse to an initial course of IVMP. The key secondary objective is to compare ACTH and MP in terms of improvement in Multiple Sclerosis Functional Composite and its three individual components in this patient population. Other secondary objectives are to compare the safety and tolerability of ACTH and MP in this patient population. Methods: A single-center, randomized, double-blind, double-dummy trial compares the efficacy, safety, and tolerability of a repeat course of 3 days of IVMP and 5 days of IM ACTH in the treatment of an acute relapse of MS after subresponse to an initial 3-day course of IVMP. Results: This is a work in progress, and preliminary data will be presented at the CMSC meeting.

Supported by: Questcor Pharmaceuticals

Disclosure: Acorda, Biogen, Teva (consulting fees); Bayer, EMD Serono, Pfizer (honoraria)