

Latanoprost More Effective Than Timolol for Lowering Intraocular Pressure in Chronic Angle Closure Glaucoma

Once-daily use of latanoprost ophthalmic solution (Xalatan®) more effectively lowered intraocular pressure (IOP) in patients with chronic angle closure glaucoma (CACG) than twice-daily treatment with timolol in a study presented at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Meeting.¹

Chronic angle closure glaucoma (CACG) affects nearly half a million people in the USA. There is a tendency for this disease to be inherited, and it is most common in people of Asian descent and people who are far-sighted.

“Chronic angle closure glaucoma is a major form of glaucoma in Asia, and a serious health risk for people of Asian descent,” said Professor Paul TK Chew of the National University Hospital, Singapore, the study’s lead investigator. “In this

study, Xalatan effectively lowered IOP in patients with CACG.” After 12 weeks of treatment, patients treated with latanoprost had an 8.2 ± 0.4 mm Hg reduction in IOP, while the reduction in patients using timolol was 5.2 ± 0.4 mm Hg, a statistically significant 3.1 ± 0.5 mm Hg difference. The research was a multicentre, randomised, double-blind study of 275 Asians with CACG — 137 patients received latanoprost 50 mg/ml once daily and 138 patients received timolol 5 mg/ml twice daily. All patients had had peripheral iridotomy performed at least 1 month prior to the prestudy period.

In this study, the investigators defined CACG as the presence of glaucomatous optic neuropathy and/or visual field loss, with at least 180° of appositional angle closure and evidence of peripheral anterior synechiae in any part of the angle on gonioscopy.

Both medications had a similar overall incidence of adverse events. The most commonly reported ocular side effects in patients treated with latanoprost include blurred vision, burning and stinging, conjunctival hyperaemia, foreign-body sensation, itching, increased iris pigmentation, and punctate epithelial keratopathy.

Latanoprost is the world’s top-selling medication used in the treatment of glaucoma and has had more than 50 million prescriptions written to date. In the USA, latanoprost is indicated for reduction of elevated IOP in patients with open angle glaucoma and ocular hypertension who are intolerant of other IOP lowering medications or insufficiently responsive to other IOP lowering medications.



Reference

1. Chew PT, EXACT Study Group. The Efficacy of Xalatan in Angle Closure Glaucoma Therapy (EXACT) Study. Poster presented at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Annual Meeting; 2001 April 29 - May 4; Fort Lauderdale, FL. Poster #2999.

Xalatan is available in the USA, Europe, Japan, and the Asia Pacific region. For a complete list of approved indications, please refer to your country specific product insert.