PRURITUS

TREATMENT OF PRURIGO NODULARIS WITH SERLOPITANT: IMPACT ON ITCH AND PAIN

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Background: In a phase 2 study of patients with prurigo nodularis (PN), serlopitant significantly reduced pruritus compared with placebo (NCT02196324).

Objective: To assess the impact of serlopitant treatment on sensory qualities of itch.

Methods: Secondary analysis of a randomized, double-blind study of serlopitant 5 mg (n=64) vs placebo (n=63) once daily for 8 weeks. Adults with chronic (>6 weeks), topical corticosteroid or antihistamine treatment–refractory PN and a visual analog scale pruritus score of ≥70 were enrolled. Analyses included exploration of baseline sensory qualities of itching, and verbal rating scale (VRS) scores for pruritus, burning, and stinging at baseline and during the 8-week treatment period. VRS responses were captured as not present, mild, moderate, severe, or very severe. Descriptive statistical analyses were conducted.

Results: The most common sensations reported at baseline were itching (96.9%), burning (52.0%), pain (40.9%), and stinging (36.2%). Percentage of patients reporting itching sensation as moderate/severe/very severe decreased from 100% at baseline to 45.6% after 8 weeks (54.4% decrease) with serlopitant, compared with 96.8% to 71.1% (25.7% decrease) with placebo. Similarly, per patient diaries, 55.6% and 73.9% of serlopitant- and placebo-treated patients reported moderate/severe/very severe pruritus at week 8). Percentage of patients reporting burning sensation as moderate/severe/very severe decreased from 59.4% at baseline to 26.8% after 8 weeks (32.6% decrease) with serlopitant, and from 64.5% to 53.5% (11.0% decrease) with placebo. Percentage of patients reporting stinging sensation as moderate/severe/very severe decreased from 45.3% at baseline to 22.2% after 8 weeks (23.1% decrease) with serlopitant, and from 45.2% to 39.5% (5.7% decrease) with placebo.

Conclusions: Baseline patient descriptions of pruritus included pain-related sensations of burning and stinging, which were reduced following treatment with serlopitant. These data

support a role for substance P in induction of itch and pain in PN and potential of serlopitant to reduce both symptoms.