

New Approaches to the Treatment of Migraine: Clinical and Economic Impact

Lisa K. Mannix, MD

Migraine headache is a prevalent disease, affecting 6% of men and 18% of women in the United States. It is responsible for extensive medical costs, absenteeism, reduced work productivity, and diminished health-related quality of life. The class of medications known as triptans was developed to treat this common and disabling illness. The first triptan developed, sumatriptan, is effective for relieving migraine headache and has demonstrated a significant impact on health outcomes related to migraine. After the introduction of sumatriptan, other triptans with improved pharmacologic and clinical profiles were developed. One of the newer triptans, almotriptan, provides similar efficacy as sumatriptan for treating acute migraine but with a tolerability profile similar to placebo. This supplement to *The American Journal of Managed Care* will highlight the clinical data available for almotriptan and discuss the economic and therapeutic impact of almotriptan compared with sumatriptan.

The supplement begins with an article by R. Michael Gallagher, DO, and F. Michael Cutrer, MD, which focuses on the overall management of migraine by the primary care physician. Randal L. Von Seggern, PharmD, BCPS, summarizes the

preclinical and clinical data for almotriptan, which highlight its effectiveness for the treatment of acute migraine and a tolerability profile that is comparable to placebo. C.E. Reeder, RPh, PhD, et al, present a cost-effectiveness analysis of triptans based on a recently published meta-analysis of triptans for acute migraine.

The article by Kevin W. Mayo, PhD, and Jane T. Osterhaus, PhD, compares currently available clinical, humanistic, and economic data associated with the use of triptans. Next, Lisa K. Mannix, MD, et al, compare healthcare resource use and the associated costs of managing chest symptoms in patients with acute migraine treated with almotriptan or sumatriptan using data from a comparative trial and a physician survey. Finally, the article by Joseph T. Wang, MS, et al, presents an economic model that was constructed to estimate the cost of care for chest pain in migraine patients receiving treatment with almotriptan 12.5 mg versus sumatriptan 50 mg. Together, these articles evaluate the respective advantages of almotriptan and sumatriptan use, and provide valuable information to physicians and health maintenance organizations regarding the therapeutic and economic implications of prescribing each drug.

© Medical World Communications, Inc.