Switching between anti-calcitonin gene related peptide monoclonal antibodies in migraine

Ribera Puig C, Clères Rovira P1, Mas Bausà N1, Gamarra Calvo S1, Rojas Alvedo JC2, Campdelacreu Fumado JP1, Comas Sugranyes D1, Alonso Moreno M1, Muñoz Bolaño M1, Padullés Zamora N1,2
1Pharmacy, Bellvitge University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain. 2Neurology, Bellvitge University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain. 3Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute-IDIBELL, Bellvitge University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain.

Background and importance
Monoclonal antibodies (mAb) against calcitonin gene related peptide (anti-CGRP) and its receptor (anti-CGRP-receptor) are effective in the prophylaxis of migraine.

In our setting there’s availability of Erenumab, Fremanezumab and Galcanezumab, and prescription is subject to eligibility criteria within our publicly funded healthcare system.

Nonetheless, studies to determine effectiveness and safety on switching between them in non-responders are scarce.

Aim and objectives
To evaluate the real-world clinical effectiveness and safety of mAb switch in migraine patients.

Materials and methods
✓ Retrospective cohort study of adult patients who switched between mAb in a tertiary care hospital from December 2019 until September 2022.
✓ Sociodemographic, clinical and pharmacological data were recorded.
✓ Outcome measures: reduction of Headache Impact Test (HIT-6) scale score and the reduction of monthly migraine days.
✓ Continuous data are presented as the median (interquartile range). Categorical data are presented as counts (%).

Results

147 patients screened
20 patients switching between anti-CGRP analysed

Number of switches:
14 (9.5%) One switch
4 (3.4%) Two switches
1 (0.7%) Three switches

First anti-CGRP treatment
Non-response*: 12 (60%)
Loss of response**: 7 (35%)
Adverse events: 1 (5%) (constipation)

Time to first switch: 7.4 months (5.9-11.8).

Second switch (n=5)
Galcanezumab to:

Time to second switch: 4 months (after first switch) (3.0-5.9).
Reason for second switch: non-response*: 5 (100%).

Third switch (n=1)
Reason for third switch: non response

Outcomes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>First switch</th>
<th>Second switch</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in HIT-6</td>
<td>-2 [-11.5, 0]</td>
<td>-3.8 [-11.8, 0]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in migraine days a month</td>
<td>-4.15 [-7, 0]</td>
<td>-4.8 [-6.5, -0.6]</td>
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Table 1. HIT-6: Head Impact Test

Adverse effects reported:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>First switch</th>
<th>Second switch</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 (25%) Erenumab</td>
<td>5 (25%) Fremanezumab</td>
<td>7 (35%) Fremanezumab</td>
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Definitions:
*Non-response: <15% reduction from baseline of days of migraine a month and HIT-6 scale score.
**Loss of response: ≥15% reduction from baseline of days of migraine a month and HIT-6 scale score at some point during treatment, but <15% by the time of switch.

Conclusions and relevance
Our findings in 20 treatment-resistant patients indicate that switching between CGRP mAbs could be beneficial to some non-responders to a initial mAb.
This data is in line with that reported in bibliography.

References
1 Ziegler C, May A. Non-Responders to Treatment With Antibodies to the CGRP-Receptor May Profit From a Switch of Antibody Class. Headache 2020; 60(3): 468-470.