TITLE: Triptans for Migraine Headaches: Update on Clinical and Cost-Effectiveness and Guidelines for Use

DATE: 20 October 2008

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What is the comparative clinical effectiveness of triptans for the treatment of migraine headache in adults?
2. What is the comparative clinical effectiveness of triptans for the treatment of migraine headache in adolescents?
3. What is the cost-effectiveness of triptans for the treatment of migraine headache?
4. What is the evidence for the adverse events associated with triptans?
5. What are the guidelines for triptan selection for different patient populations?

METHODS:

A limited literature search was conducted on key health technology assessment resources, including PubMed, the Cochrane Library (Issue 3, 2008), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, ECRI, EuroScan, international health technology agencies, and a focused Internet search. Results include articles published from May 2005 to Sept 2008 for Questions 1 and 4, from October 2006 to September 2008 for Questions 2 and 3, and from January 2003 to September 2008 for Question 5. Results are limited to English language publications only. Filters were applied to limit the retrieval to systematic reviews/health technology assessments and randomized controlled trials for Questions 1 and 2, economic studies for Question 3, adverse events for Question 4 and clinical practice guidelines for Question 5. Internet links are provided, where available.

RESULTS:

HTIS reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by economic evaluations, randomized controlled trials, observational studies, and evidence-based guidelines.

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This report is an update to a previous HTIS report (I4001: Triptans for acute migraine: comparative clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness). It provides literature that has been published since the release of the previous report and further information regarding adverse events and guidelines. No head-to-head trials were found regarding the comparative clinical effectiveness of triptans in adolescents. One randomized controlled trial was identified, comparing almotriptan to placebo.

Research question 1: What is the comparative clinical effectiveness of triptans for the treatment of migraine headache in adults?

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


Randomized controlled trials


Research question 2: What is the comparative clinical effectiveness of triptans for the treatment of migraine headache in adolescents?

Randomized controlled trials


Research question 3: What is the cost-effectiveness of triptans for the treatment of migraine headache?

Economic analyses and cost information


Research question 4: What is the evidence for the adverse events associated with triptans?

Observational studies


Guidelines and recommendations


Research question 5: What are the guidelines for triptan selection for different patient populations?

Guidelines and recommendations

Adults or Adults and Adolescents


Adolescents


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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Research question 1: What is the comparative clinical effectiveness of triptans for the treatment of migraine headache in adults?

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses


Review articles


Observational studies


Research question 2: What is the comparative clinical effectiveness of triptans for the treatment of migraine headache in adolescents?

Randomized controlled trials


Research question 5: What are the guidelines for triptan selection for different patient populations?

Systematic review