Etanercept Challenges Cortisone as Treatment for Sciatica

A new randomized, controlled trial (RCT) is the fourth RCT to provide evidence for the efficacy of etanercept for intervertebral disc-related pain. The first human data regarding the effectiveness of etanercept for sciatica was reported by the Institute of Neurological Recovery more than a decade earlier.

Los Angeles, California (PRWEB) November 07, 2013 -- A new randomized clinical trial (RCT) published in the November 1, 2013 issue of the journal Spine (1) provides new evidence for the efficacy of etanercept used off-label for relief of persistent sciatica associated with lumbar disc herniation, a common health problem with significant unmet medical need. Etanercept belongs to the class of potent anti-inflammatory drugs known as TNF inhibitors.

The new etanercept study follows a 2012 comparative effectiveness trial of epidural etanercept versus an epidural steroid injection that found etanercept to be superior to the epidural steroid (cortisone) injection(2).

The new Spine study joins three previous RCTs as the fourth RCT supporting the efficacy of etanercept for treating disc-related pain(1-4). The clinical evidence of the effectiveness of etanercept for this indication has been accumulating for more than a decade(1-9). Increasing basic science and clinical evidence supports the scientific rationale of TNF inhibition for neuroinflammation(10-19).

The first account of the favorable clinical effect of etanercept for sciatica, and the invention of epidural administration of etanercept for this indication, was published in 2001, authored by Edward Tobinick, M.D., the founder of the Institute of Neurological Recovery (INR)(20). Dr. Tobinick and his colleagues have written multiple peer-reviewed articles documenting the clinical effects of perispinal etanercept used at the INR off-label for sciatica, cervical radiculopathy, intractable low back pain and related symptoms associated with lumbar disc herniation(5-9, 21). Perispinal administration of etanercept is a patented invention of Dr. Tobinick(21). Please note that results can vary, not all patients respond, etanercept may have adverse effects and is off-label for neurological indications.

Etanercept holds great promise for the large patient population with intractable spinal pain for which existing medical treatment options have not provided adequate pain relief.

References

20. U.S. patent 6,419,944, and additional applicable U.S. patents, Edward Tobinick M.D., inventor, assigned to TACT IP, LLC.
21. Applicable patents, all assigned to TACT IP LLC and licensed to the INR include 6,419,944; 6,982,089 and other issued and pending U.S. patents.
Contact Information
Media Relations
INR
http://www.painbreakthrough.com
+1 (310) 479-0107

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