Naftidrofuryl for Acute Stroke

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Stroke is the third most common cause of death and the most common cause of disability in the western world. The development of drugs to limit the brain damage caused by stroke, or the effects of such damage, continues but no routinely effective treatment has yet been identified. Naftidrofuryl has been reported to be beneficial in the treatment of acute stroke in some studies, but it is unclear whether all of the evidence supports these findings. Consequently, the use of naftidrofuryl in acute stroke varies widely. It is used in some developing countries but has been removed from the market for use in acute stroke in the UK.

Objective

The objective of this study was to perform a systematic review of randomized controlled clinical trials to assess whether Naftidrofuryl in the acute phase of stroke (defined as within 7 days after ictus) can alter the risks of early death, late death, or disability.

Materials and Methods

We included all randomized controlled trials that compared the effect of Naftidrofuryl with that of placebo in patients with acute ischemic or hemorrhagic stroke clinically diagnosed by a medical practitioner with or without a CT scan. Two authors independently selected trials for inclusion, assessed trial quality, and extracted data using data extraction forms or, if available, re-analyzed individual patient data. Random effect models were used in the meta-analyses. Six trials involving 1274 participants were included. We found no significant benefits of Naftidrofuryl compared with placebo in reducing the risks of mortality (pooled OR, 1.03; 95% CI, 0.78 to 1.36; 6 studies; Systematic review of trials comparing naftidrofuryl with placebo in people with acute stroke. Results expressed as odds ratio (OR) with a random effects model. ORC1 suggests naftidrofuryl is superior to placebo. (Figure Leonardi-Bee J, Steiner T, Bath-Hextall FJ. Naftidrofuryl for acute stroke. The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 2007, Issue 2).
Conclusions

Implications for Practice
From this systematic review, there is little evidence to suggest that Naftidrofuryl affects outcome after acute stroke.

Implications for Research
Although only 6 randomized controlled trials were identified in this review, there is little evidence to support the conduct of further studies using Naftidrofuryl in the treatment of acute stroke.

Note: The full text of this review should be cited as: Leonardi-Bee J, Steiner T, Bath-Hextall FJ. Naftidrofuryl for acute stroke. The Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 2007, Issue 2.

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Disclosures
Tim Steiner was the chief principal investigator for 2 of the trials included in the review. All the analyses and their interpretation reflect the opinions of the authors. No pharmaceutical company was involved in the analysis or interpretation of data, or in the writing of this review.
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