

Weekly response following a single administration of Qutenza[®], an 8% capsaicin patch, in patients with postherpetic neuralgia: results of integrated analyses

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Purpose

To investigate the weekly treatment response to a single application of Qutenza[®], an 8% capsaicin patch, FDA approved for the management of postherpetic neuralgia (PHN).

Method

Patients recorded their 'average pain for the past 24 hours' using the Numeric Pain Rating Scale (NPRS) daily. The proportion of responders, patients with $\geq 30\%$ reduction in NPRS score, was calculated for each study week and compared between treatments using logistic regression with baseline and gender as covariates. The proportion of patients with $\geq 50\%$ and ≥ 2 unit reduction in NPRS scores was also calculated.

Results

As early as week 1, 43% of Qutenza-treated patients responded to treatment. At week 2, 44% responded. This response was maintained at week 8, with 48% responders, and at week 12 with 46% responders. At all time points, the Qutenza response rate was significantly greater from control. Similar findings were observed for the proportion of patients with $\geq 50\%$ and ≥ 2 unit reduction in NPRS scores. During week 1, 27% and 38% of Qutenza-treated patients reported $\geq 50\%$ or ≥ 2 unit reduction in NPRS scores, respectively. At week 2, 30% and 39% had a $\geq 50\%$ or ≥ 2 unit reduction. The proportions of Qutenza-treated patients with $\geq 50\%$ and ≥ 2 unit reduction in NPRS scores were 32% and 42% at week 8 and 30% and 41% at week 12, respectively. At all time points, the $\geq 50\%$ and ≥ 2 unit response to Qutenza was significantly greater than the control response.

Conclusions

Qutenza can provide meaningful pain relief from PHN that can last for 12 weeks after a single 60-minute application.