

Self-Reported Impressions of Diclofenac Potassium Liquid-Filled Soft-Gel Capsules for Acute Pain: Results from a Patient Feedback Program

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Purpose

To evaluate patients' experiences with a novel, diclofenac potassium liquid-filled soft-gel capsule formulation (DPSGC; Zipsor) with ProSORB technology, across a spectrum of acute pain conditions routinely encountered in clinical practice. DPSGC is indicated for mild to moderate acute pain in adults.

Method

This prospective survey was implemented from August 2009-January 2010. Physicians identified patients eligible for treatment with DPSGC and provided them with information about the program. Patients voluntarily participated by contacting a study coordinator, providing consent, and responding to a series of questions prior to medication use and approximately 7 days after using DPSGC. Surveys were completed through an automated interactive voice response system or a secure website and included questions assessing patients' severity of pain and its interference with life's activities. Patients were also asked about prior medication use, medication satisfaction, willingness to use DPSGC again and likelihood of recommending others speak with their doctors about DPSGC. Paired t-tests were used to evaluate the statistical significance of differences in pain severity and interference ratings before and after treatment.

Results

Of 5,367 patients who enrolled and completed a baseline survey, 1,208 (23%) completed the post-treatment survey (mean age 52 years; 39% male). Women tended to report using DPSGC for back pain (27%) or "another condition" (40%). Among men, back pain accounted for 31% of use, "another condition" 37%. After use of DPSGC, patients reported statistically significant reductions in mean pain scores (7.0 vs. 3.8, $p < 0.01$; 0=no pain; 10=worst possible pain). Interference from pain with work/school activities was reduced by 48% (6.5 to 3.4); with social activities, 44% (mean 5.9 to 3.3) and with home activities, 45% (mean 6.2 to 3.4) ($p < 0.01$), based on a scale of 0 (did not interfere) to 10 (completely interfered). Satisfaction with DPSGC averaged 6.8 on a scale of 0 (not at all satisfied) to 10 (very satisfied). Sixty-three percent of patients indicated they would consider using DPSGC again; 66% would recommend that others talk with their doctor about DPSGC.

Conclusions

Satisfaction and effectiveness of DPSGC for treatment of acute pain were evident from patient-rated measures of treatment performance.