PIMAVANSERIN AS A MODERN ATYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUG IN THE TREATMENT OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE PSYCHOSIS

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Parkinson's disease psychosis, or PDP, is a debilitating disorder. It deeply affects the quality of life of Parkinson's patients. PDP is associated with marked increases in caregiver stress and burden, is the single greatest precipitant of nursing home placement among patients with PD, and results in substantial morbidity and mortality. PDP is characterized by the presence of hallucinations and delusions. Pimavanserin, is a non-dopaminergic atypical antipsychotic developed for the treatment of PDP without having worsening effect on motor symptoms of Parkinson disease. It exerts its effect through a combination of inverse agonist and antagonist activity at serotonin 5-HT_{2A} receptor. It is Food and Drug Approval Society (FDA) approved first drug against PDP. This drug has shown successful effect in the treatment of PDP.

In outpatient study, 199 patients were randomized to Pimavanserin or placebo once daily. Study patients had a diagnosis of Parkinson disease and psychosis symptoms that started after Parkinson disease diagnoses that were severe and frequent enough to start treatment. The majority of patients were on stable PD medication for atleast 30 days. Prior to study, start and throughout the study period. The Parkinson disease – adapted scale for the assessment of positive symptoms was used to evaluate the efficiency negative change in score indicates improvement.

A significant effect was seen on both hallucination and delusion in patients with PDP. Result of Pimavanserin was significantly superior to placebo in decreasing frequency and severity of hallucination and delirium. And have very little side effect like, peripheral edema and confusion state.

According to its effective results, definitely, Pimavanserin can be great alternative for treatment patients with PDP. The FDA approval for these drugs was based on the data from phase III -020 study which demonstrated significantly results, without worsening motor symptoms of Parkinson disease.