LIMITED CLINICAL TRIAL WITH TRAUMEEL® IN CHEMOTHERAPY-INDUCED STOMATITIS

We studied 27 subjects between the ages of 6 and 18 years to evaluate the feasibility of using Traumeel® Oral Liquid in Vials for treating chemotherapy-induced stomatitis. Twenty patients received Traumeel® and seven children who did not receive Traumeel® were chosen at random for a prospective follow-up to compare the duration of symptoms in study participants to untreated patients. We assessed the distribution of ulcer severity in all participants according to WHO staging. The age distribution (Table 2), stages of disease (Table 3), and anatomic sites (Table 4) were similar in both groups. In the untreated group, however, opiate use was higher, although the difference was not statistically significant (see Table 5). All statistical analyses were carried out using BMDP Statistical Software.

In all treated children, each treatment was followed by an immediate decrease in pain, which continued for 30 minutes to 2 1/2 hours. In children with Stage 1-2 stomatitis, the pain reduction lasted between 24-72 hours until the stomatitis disappeared. Children who began with Stage 3-4 stomatitis required 6-8 days of treatment. In two children with GVHD (graft versus host disease)-associated stomatitis, the pain was significantly reduced for several hours, and then 24 hours later the children ceased to complain about pain. Nevertheless, the basic process that had caused the stomatitis in these two children continued, so the children continued to receive treatment 3-2 times per day for another 5-10 days. Only one participant, a patient with Stage 4 stomatitis, according to the WHO definition, was receiving morphine at the beginning of the trial. Immediately after the first dose of Traumeel®, the morphine dosage was reduced by half. No other participant required treatment with narcotics, and those with Stage 1-2 stomatitis at the beginning of the trial no longer required analgesic treatment.

Table 6 shows the product-limit survival analysis that we used to compare symptoms duration. From this table it can be seen that the difference between the two groups is highly significant according to stringtistical analysis. The medium symptom duration in the treated group was 6 days, compared with 13 days in the untreated group.

CONCLUSION

We conducted this small preliminary study to gain a first impression about the effectiveness of Traumeel® Oral Liquid in Vials on mucositis. Obtaining positive results in such a study is a prerequisite to performing a large clinical trial according to scientific standards. Although we did not conduct this study as a randomized, double-blind trial, and the number of participants was small, the results are still impressive. Even if we presume that part of the success was due to the placebo effect, which is known to be very small in a hyper-symptomatic situation, such encouraging results led us to believe that Traumeel® Oral Liquid in Vials has genuine biological activity. In addition to its biological activity, the onset of action of Traumeel® was remarkable, with patients reporting a strong amelioration of pain within minutes. Some patients also reported a mood improvement. Such rapid action is unusual because the mucosa does not regenerate within minutes. Notably, the improvement persisted. Although the decreased use of opiates as analgetics in the Traumeel® treated group was not significant, we recognized a clear trend toward such a decrease, so we speculate that the results of a study on a larger group of patients might show a difference in favor of the Traumeel®-treated group. This is of limited, preliminary trial aims to support the feasibility of performing a prospective, double-blind trial to assess whether positive results will be obtained in more stringent, scientific conditions, and whether Traumeel® treatment can reduce the duration of pain in stomatitis patients. Such a study is currently taking place in two medical centers in Israel.

REFERENCE

11. Treated 18 90.0 2 10.0 20
12. Unrepaired 4 51.7 3 42.9 7
13. Total 22 100 5 100 27

*The name of this product varies internationally, but the formula remains the same. Alternatively, when this product is not available, the content of Traumeel ampules may be used for the same purpose.

SUMMARIES

EUPHORBIUM COMP.
(CONTROLLED DOUBBLE-BLIND STUDY OF A HOMEOPATHIC SINUSITIS MEDICATION)

Dr. M. Weiser and B.P.E. Clasen • Biological Therapy • Vol. XIII, No.1, 1995, pp. 4-11

Summary


Design: Randomized, placebo controlled, double-blind study over a five-month period.

Subject / Collective: Included solely in this study were subjects who have suffered from established, chronically recurrent - although not acute - rhinosinusitis, for whom conservative therapy was applied during symptom-free intervals. Excluded from this study, among others, were patients who smoked, suffered from nasendoscopically confirmed polyposis or infectious rhinitis, who were known to possess unhealed apical granuloma, whose cases of sinusitis were established to be odontogenic, or who had undergone surgical treatment within the previous six months. The investigation encompassed a total of 172 patients, 155 of whom were included in the final analysis (89.6%).

Intervention: 2 discharges of serum or placebo respectively into each nostril 4 times daily over a period of five months.

Chief Objective Variables: For the purpose of statistical comparison among the therapeutic groups, a cumulative score was calculated from the data compiled in the three sectors “Subjective Symptoms (“day/night”), Anterior Rhinoscopy”, and “Ultrasound Examination of the Paranasal Sinus”.

Results: Statistical comparison of the therapeutic collects demonstrates significant superiority of Euphorbium compostum S Nasal Spray (5% significance level, p = 0.016). Improvement was most evident within the subjective criteria of respiratory obstruction, sensation of pressure, and headache. Euphorbium compostum S Nasal Spray was well tolerated.

Conclusion: This study substantiates the reliable efficacy and good tolerance of Euphorbium compostum S Nasal Spray in therapy of chronic sinusitis. In addition, it demonstrates maintenance of a high standard of methods and acquisition of meaningful test results in indeed be feasible in homeopathy.