CGRP antibodies will become the treatment of choice for chronic migraine

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Abstract

Point of view: Yes

The management of patients with migraine is often unsatisfactory because available acute and preventive treatment is either ineffective or poorly tolerated. The peptide calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) has been found to have a key role in migraine, supported by studies showing that CGRP is released in migraine attacks, and that different CGRP receptor antagonists (gepants) aborted the migraine pain and one study indicated a prophylactic effect.

Recently, three different monoclonal antibodies targeting the CGRP ligand (LY2951742, ALD403 and TEV-48125) and one targeting the CGRP receptor (AMG334) have completed phase 2 trials in frequent episodic migraine and the results reported. These early trials revealed them all to be significantly more effective than placebo. TEV-48125 has also been studied in chronic migraine with a good outcome. The adverse effects in these trials were not different from placebo.

In migraine prevention, these humanized antibodies against CGRP or the CGRP receptor are agents that represent a promising new approach in therapy and are currently in phase 3 studies.