

ADVANTAGES OF ROSUVASTATIN AND EZETIMIBE COMBINATION TREATMENT

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Abstract

The use of statins for primary and secondary prevention has been shown to reduce the risk of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality per lowering of LDL cholesterol. A greater reduction in LDL cholesterol was associated with a greater reduction of cardiovascular risk. Therefore, the use of moderate- to high-intensity statins is recommended for patients with hypercholesterolemia.

Even though intensive lowering of LDL cholesterol in very-high-risk patients has been recommended, only 21.7% of the patients attained their goals. Rosuvastatin 40 mg is rarely recommended in Asian subjects because of safety issues. The goal achievement rate associated with rosuvastatin 20 mg treatment for very-high-risk patients was 68.5%. As reported in a previous study [Multicenter Randomized Study of ROsuvastatin and eZetimibe (MRS-ROZE)], rosuvastatin combined with ezetimibe more strongly lowered LDL cholesterol, Apo B, Apo B/A1 ratio, and non-HDL cholesterol compared to statin monotherapy.

The major concern related to statin treatment is treatment-related adverse events. Myopathy is not uncommon and one of the major barriers in the use of statin treatment. Moreover, statin treatment has been shown to increase the risk of development of type 2 diabetes. The statin-related risk of diabetes seems to be dose or potency dependent. Therefore, reducing the dose of statins is expected to be helpful in reducing the incidence of statin treatment-related type 2 diabetes. The post-hoc analysis of the MRS-ROZE showed that the combination treatment of rosuvastatin and ezetimibe has an advantage in reducing the dose of rosuvastatin without compromising its lipid-lowering efficacy.

In conclusion, the advantages of combination treatment with ezetimibe and statin are (1) further lowering LDL cholesterol, (2) dose reduction of rosuvastatin without compromising the lipid-lowering efficacy of rosuvastatin, and (3) possibility of lesser dose-dependent side effect of statin.

Keywords

Hypercholesterolemia, Ezetimibe, Rosuvastatin, Combination treatment