

New oral medication to treat multiple sclerosis

On March 26, 2019, the FDA approved a new oral drug to treat adults with relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS).¹ Mayzent (siponimod) is the first oral sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor modulator indicated for clinically isolated syndrome, relapsing-remitting disease, and active secondary progressive multiple sclerosis.²

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is an autoimmune disease that attacks myelinated axons in the central nervous system.³ Diagnosis is based on presentation and testing to show disease progression. Common symptoms of MS are fatigue, numbness or tingling, walking (gait) difficulties, spasticity, weakness, vision problems, dizziness and vertigo, depression, and cognition problems. MS is divided into categories: relapsing-remitting MS (RRMS), secondary progressive (SPMS), primary progressive (PPMS), and progressive-relapsing MS (PRMS).⁴ Treatment of MS includes disease-modifying therapy to reduce the number of relapses, delay the progression of disability, and limit new disease activity.

A clinical trial of 1,651 patients showed the efficacy of Mayzent by comparing Mayzent to placebo in patients with SPMS who had evidence of disability progression in the last two years and no relapses in the three months prior to enrollment.¹ The primary endpoint of the study was the time to three-month confirmed progression in disability. The fraction of patients with confirmed progression of disability was significantly lower in the Mayzent group than in the placebo group. The number of relapses were significantly decreased in the Mayzent group. The most common adverse reaction reported by patients in the trial included headache, high blood pressure, and increased liver function tests. Similar to other MS therapies, Mayzent is immunosuppressive and must be dispensed with a Medication Guide.

References:

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