

Transcript of Video - What You Need to Know About Mavenclad

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DR. AARON MILLER, MD: It's always exciting to have a new medication for the treatment of multiple sclerosis. In this case, we're going to be talking about a new medicine called Mavenclad. The scientific name for Mavenclad is Cladribine. And Cladribine has been used has been approved to be used in patients with relapsing, remitting multiple sclerosis and secondary progressive MS with activity. So nowadays, we classify multiple sclerosis into several different types. One is relapsing remitting MS. These are people who have clear cut relapses and then a relapse resolves often completely. Sometimes leaving some degree of neurological deficit behind until another relapse comes.

At the very first episode of MS, a first attack of something that looks like MS, we may refer to that as a clinically isolated syndrome, meaning a person doesn't meet the criteria for definite MS yet. In some cases we may treat patients with CIS with certain medicines, but specifically Mavenclad has not been approved for the treatment of clinically isolated syndrome. Other forms of MS are progressive

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disease, and we have two types of progressive disease. Secondary progressive disease and primary progressive MS. Secondary progressive MS is diagnosed in a person who once upon a time had at least one relapse and then ultimately the disease course changes so that the person is little by little getting worse.

Primary progressive MS refers to a patient who from the very beginning had a progressive course. Relapses are sometimes superimposed later on but the initial course was progressive.

Nowadays, however, we apply modifiers to these Progressive courses depending on whether or not an individual has what we refer to as activity.

Activity could either be clinical activity that is a relapse or it could be new lesions on MRI. So the FDA in approving Mavenclad for the very first time use the term secondary progressive MS with activity so that means a person who has been getting progressively worse, but in the recent past has had either new relapses or new lesions appearing on the MRI scan. Interestingly, the FDA did not apply a time

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frame for what they meant by activity. Usually clinicians will be thinking about activity in the relatively recent past. Let's say the past year or two, but the FDA specifically did not mention that in the prescribing information for Mavenclad.

Mavenclad is a drug which interferes with the synthesis and repair of DNA in certain cells and by interfering with these processes, it kills certain cells. In particular, it's use in MS has come about because the substrate for Mavenclad is particularly concentrated in lymphocytes. And so the drug has a particularly strong effect in destroying lymphocytes. Lymphocytes are a form of immune cells that are involved in the MS process and lymphocytes come in two major varieties, T cells and B cells. And both of these are affected by Mavenclad.

The treatment regimen for Mavenclad is rather unique. So Mavenclad is a -- a tablet. It comes as a 10-milligram tablet and the dose of Mavenclad is dependent on an individual's weight. This is the only MS medicine that we have that is not given in a fixed dose but rather the dose is

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