Comparative Evaluation of the Efficacy of the Bimatoprost 0.03%, Brimonidine 0.2%, Brinzolamide 1%, Dorzolamide 2%, and Travoprost 0.004%/Timolol 0.5%-Fixed Combinations in Patients Affected by Open-Angle Glaucoma*

Italo Giuffre

Department of Ophthalmology, Medical School, Catholic University of Rome, Rome, Italy.
Email: italogiuffre@libero.it

Received July 20th, 2012; revised September 22nd, 2012; accepted October 30th, 2012

ABSTRACT

Purpose: This is a retrospective, comparative, head-to-head, not commissioned study about the efficacy of bimatoprost 0.03%, brimonidine 0.2%, brinzolamide 1%, dorzolamide 2%, and travoprost 0.004%/timolol 0.5%-fixed combinations in patients affected by naïve open-angle glaucoma and IOP > 25 mmHg. Patients and Methods: Files from 70 patients (35 M, 35 F, mean age 69.52 y, S.D. 11.56, range: 37 - 87 y) in our Glaucoma Service were retrospectively analyzed as long as 12 months. Every subgroup, including 14 age- and sex-matched patients, was allocated to 1 of the 5 groups of the fixed combinations monotherapy. Data recorded after 3 months follow-up were statistically analyzed by descriptive and ANOVA statistics as percentage of IOP reduction from baseline.

Results: All the fixed combinations were effective in lowering IOP. The mean percentage reduction was: brimonidine/timolol 43.57%, dorzolamide/timolol 37.67%, bimatoprost/timolol 35.60%, travoprost/timolol 33.25% and brinzolamide/timolol 23.0%. The brimonidine/timolol fixed combination showed to be statistically significant more effective only than brinzolamide/timolol fixed combination (p = 0.001). Setting the α error to 5%, the power of the study is 26%, phi: 0.842. Discussion: In all this cohort of patients the target IOP was successfully achieved. All the fixed combinations used in this study had a very good profile of efficacy. Brimonidine, dorzolamide, bimatoprost and travoprost/timolol fixed combinations statistically significantly reduced the percentage of IOP from baseline (p = 0.001) more than brinzolamide/timolol fixed combination.

Keywords: Bimatoprost 0.03%; Brimonidine 0.2%; Brinzolamide 1%; Dorzolamide 2%, Travoprost 0.004%/Timolol 0.5% Fixed Combinations; Efficacy; IOP

1. Introduction

Glaucoma is a progressive, and potentially blinding, optic neuropathy. The aetiology of glaucoma is multifactorial, but, to date, reduction of intraocular pressure (IOP) is the only evidence-based therapy for glaucoma. IOP reduction is achieved by the use of topical medications [1].

Fixed combinations of IOP-lowering medications have been developed by combining different pharmacologic classes of ocular hypotensive drugs commonly prescribed for the treatment of elevated IOP in patients affected by open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension. Modern fixed combinations pair beta-adrenoceptor antagonists (beta-blocker) with either prostaglandin analogs or carbonic anhydrase inhibitors. Potential benefits of fixed combinations include better compliance, reduction in exposure to preservatives, and elimination of the washout effect.

The first fixed combination was produced by Merck Sharp & Dohme Inc. (White-House Station, NJ, USA): 2% dorzolamide-0.5% timolol (DTFC, Cosopt®). A new fixed combination of the carbonic anhydrase inhibitor brinzolamide 1% and timolol 0.5% (BRINTFC, Azarga®) has been developed after 0.004% travoprost-0.5% timolol (TRAVOTFC, Duotrav®) (Alcon Research, Ltd., Ft. Worth, Texas, USA). Other fixed combinations produced and commercialized by Allergan are 0.2% brimonidine-0.5% timolol (BRIMOTFC, Combigan®) and 0.03% bimatoprost-0.5% timolol (BIMATOFC, Ganfort®).

*Financial disclosure: The author has no proprietary or commercial interest in any materials discussed in this article.
Different studies stress the efficacy and safety of BRIMOTFC versus the unfixed components or another fixed combination [2-9]. Other papers underline the efficacy and safety of DTFC, even three times a day [10-18]. BRINTFC was recently compared to DTFC. Mostly 1% brinzolamide-0.5% timolol ophthalmic suspension is associated with a statistically significantly less ocular discomfort profile than 2% dorzolamide-0.5% timolol ophthalmic solution [19-22]. BIMATOFC was compared to 0.03% bimatoprost [23]. The fixed combination provided an additional statistically significant reduction in IOP [24,25]. TRAVOTFC and BIMATOFC were compared to 0.005% latanoprost-0.5% timolol [26-29]. TRAVOTFC offers the potential benefits of increased patient adherence, reduced exposure to preservatives (now BAK-free), and reduced cost [30-38]. The aim of this study is to compare the efficacy of these fixed combinations.

2. Patients and Methods

This is a retrospective, comparative, head-to-head, not commissioned study on Caucasian outpatients, affected by naïve open-angle glaucoma, who were assessed in our Glaucoma Service in the last 12 months from 01-01-2011 till 12-31-2011. Inclusion criteria were: diagnosis of open-angle glaucoma based on the European Glaucoma Society Guidelines criteria [39] with IOP > 25 mmHg, medical therapy by only one fixed combination previously cited in the worst eye. Exclusion criteria included: contraindications to β-blockers; closed or barely open anterior chamber angles; ocular surgery or argon laser trabeculoplasty; ocular inflammation or infection; neovascular patients; hypersensitivity to benzalkonium chloride (BAK) or to any other fixed combination or any other component of the solutions; any history of refractive surgery, pregnancy, breastfeeding, or childbearing potential without adequate contraception. All patients included in their files: uncorrected and corrected visual acuity, baseline IOP > 25 mmHg measured by Goldmann applanation tonometry, adjusted by pachymetry, diurnal tonometric curve, fundus oculi, 30-2 Sita standard Humphrey visual field analyzer including visual field index, HRT and OCT. Main outcome of this paper is to measure the percentage of IOP reduction from baseline due to any fixed combination used: Group B (brimonidine 0.2% plus timolol 0.5%, BRIMOTFC) 43.57%, Group D (DTFC) 37.67%, Group A (bimatoprost 0.03% plus timolol 0.5%, BIMATOFC) 35.60%, Group E (travoprost 0.004% plus timolol 0.5% (TRAVOTFC) 32.55%, and Group C (brinzolamide 1% plus timolol 0.5%, BRINTFC) 23.0%.

The ANOVA test was not statistically significant between Group B and D (BRIMOTFC and DTFC) (p = 0.053), Group B and A (BRIMOTFC and BIMATOFC) (p = 0.221), Group B and E (BRIMOTFC and TRAVOTFC) (p = 0.167) but statistically significant between Group B and C (BRIMOTFC and BRINTFC) (p = 0.001) (Table 4). Setting the α error to 5%, the power of this study is 26%, phi: 0.842.

Table 1. Demographics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PATIENTS</th>
<th>MALE</th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>MEAN AGE</th>
<th>S.D.</th>
<th>RANGE</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>69.52 y</td>
<td>11.56</td>
<td>37 - 87 y</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Fixed combinations (Number of patients).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GROUP</th>
<th>COMBINATION</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GROUP A</td>
<td>BIMATOPROST 0.03%-TFC</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROUP B</td>
<td>BRIMONIDINE 0.2%-TFC</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROUP C</td>
<td>BRINZOLAMIDE 1%-TFC</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROUP D</td>
<td>DTFC</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROUP E</td>
<td>TRAVOPROST 0.004%-TFC</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legenda: DTFC: dorzolamide 2% timolol 0.5% fixed combination; TFC: timolol 0.5% fixed combination.

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5. Acknowledgements

The Author thanks the staff of the Glaucoma Service of the Department of Ophthalmology, Catholic University of Rome, Rome, Italy, Europe.

REFERENCES


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