

Health Technology Appraisal

Febuxostat for the treatment of Hyperuricaemia in Gout

Patient expert statement from Iain Phillips on behalf of the UK Gout Society

Good morning.

My name is Iain Phillips I am 34 and have suffered with gout since I was 18 years of age. I had been suffering with the symptoms for a numbers of years before it was given a name due to the fact that there had been little or no other cases in anyone of my age. I was 22 when I was diagnosed with gout and was given the correct treatment. I was given the starting dose of alopuranol and over the 1st year the does was put up until I reached the maximum dose. This made no difference so kept on taking at the top dose for a number of years. After 3-4 years I stopped taking Alopuranol and was asked to try a few other drugs that have been used to treat gout. One of these was coultrazine which made me very ill within the first 2 hours so was stopped. I went for a number of years just using pain killers until things got to the point where I needed to do something as I could not take much more of the pain and the amount of times I was having attacks. I went back to my GP and was referred to a specialist where I was started on a combination of drugs, sulphinpirzone, Prednisolone and ibruprophin. Within a few weeks I suffered renal Failure and ended up on dialyses. This was put down to the cocktail of drugs. I was lucky that after being on dialyses my renal function started to return to normal and after having weekly check ups I was told my kidneys were working normally again. This was 3 years ago and between then and now I am trying alopuranol once again and have lost my job due to the amount of time I have not been able to work. I now have my own wheel chair which I use when I have bad attacks in my lower limbs. I now live on benefits and DLA. My wife is my carer and had to give up her job to do this.

I try to keep up to date with new developments in the drugs to treat gout and offer my assistance to the UK Gout society and have been a case study on a few occasions. I would look forward to seeing this new drug come onto the market and hope that it will help others as well as me.

Gout can be a life changing illness that is still not taken seriously by many. I hope things change.

Iain Phillips