



MIGRAINE IN PRIMARY CARE ADVISORS

MIPCA is an independent charity working through research and education to set standards for the care of headache sufferers. MIPCA is a group of physicians, nurses, pharmacists and other healthcare professionals dedicated to the improvement of headache management in primary care.

**To Kate Moore
Project Manager NICE**

Re Botulinum toxin typeA for the prevention of headaches in adults with chronic migraine.

Dear NICE

6th March 2012

This organisation is disappointed to read that the committee is minded not to recommend botulinum A for the prevention of headaches in adults with chronic migraine.

We understand the need to demonstrate cost effectiveness and that the committee have already requested additional information from Allergan, both with regard the presented data and proposed delivery model.

Might we respectfully remind the committee that chronic migraine is reported by WHO to be one of the top 20 conditions for lifetime disability and that Botox is the only licensed intervention available to clinicians at this time. Unlicensed agents have low efficacy and high tolerability and are often not acceptable to patients.

Clinicians recognise that disability and quality of life are not only improved by less headache days. Reduced severity and duration of headache as well as reduced comorbid symptoms can be equally important. Reduction in the need preventative medications and changing to simpler analgesic rescue and using less doses might be the key parameter for some sufferers.

It is our view that a more global view of a patient's health status is required both in clinical practice but also in your appraisal process. An area where this is particularly relevant is the stopping rule that at present suggests stopping if less than 50% reduction in headache days are reported. It is our opinion that clinically significant benefit is seen well before a 50% reduction and that a broader outcome than headache days would be optimal.

MIPCA

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