Considering Activase® (alteplase) for treatment of acute ischemic stroke

A DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR PATIENTS AND CAREGIVERS

Indication
Activase is indicated for treating patients with acute ischemic stroke (AIS), which is caused by a blood clot in the brain's blood vessels. Patients can receive Activase only if they begin treatment within 3 hours after their stroke symptoms start and only after bleeding in the brain has been ruled out.

Important Safety Information
Activase can cause bleeding and should not be used in patients who have: current bleeding in the brain; bleeding in the area between the brain and the thin tissues that cover the brain; active internal bleeding; recent (within 3 months) brain or spinal surgery or trauma; brain tumor, an abnormal connection between veins and arteries in the brain, or an abnormal bulge in the wall of an artery that supplies blood to the brain; problems with blood clotting; or current severe uncontrolled high blood pressure.

Please see select Important Safety Information throughout and the accompanying full Prescribing Information.
Results of treatment with Activase in acute ischemic stroke patients

- Among patients treated with Activase, 6.4% experienced bleeding within the brain that caused symptoms.
- Among patients treated with placebo, 0.6% experienced bleeding within the brain that caused symptoms.

Blood clot in an artery/vessel of the brain.

Minimal or no disability
- 31%
- 20%

Moderate to severe disability
- 52%
- 59%

Death
- 17%
- 21%

These figures represent 3-month outcomes from Part 2 of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke study (N=333), in which patients were treated with Activase within 3 hours of stroke symptom onset. Patient response was measured with 4 scales, including the Barthel Index, National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS), modified Rankin Scale, and the Glasgow Outcome Scale, which assess neurologic function in stroke patients; Activase showed statistically significant improvement on all 4 stroke scales (global odds ratio for favorable outcome: 1.71 [95% CI: 1.15-2.56, \(P = 0.02\)]). The response rates in the chart are derived from the NIHSS. Part 1 of the trial demonstrated no significant difference between the Activase and placebo groups in the primary outcome measure (NIHSS) at 24 hours after treatment.

The most common side effect of treatment with Activase is bleeding, including bleeding in the brain that causes symptoms:
- Among patients treated with Activase, 6.4% experienced bleeding within the brain that caused symptoms.
- Among patients treated with placebo, 0.6% experienced bleeding within the brain that caused symptoms.

Important Safety Information (cont’d)

Some patients may or may not benefit from Activase because of an increased risk of bleeding, which may be serious or sometimes fatal, including those with the following conditions: recent major surgery; disease of blood vessels in the brain; recent bleeding in the brain; recent internal bleeding; recent trauma; uncontrolled high blood pressure; high likelihood of developing a blood clot in the left chamber of the heart; inflammation of the sac around the heart; infection of the inner lining of the heart and the heart valves; increased bleeding risk associated with liver or kidney problems; liver problems; pregnancy; bleeding in the eyes; swelling and infection associated with blood clots; elderly patients; patients on blood thinning drugs.
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Important Safety Information (cont’d)
Swelling of the mouth and throat (orolingual angioedema) has been observed in patients treated for acute ischemic stroke and acute myocardial infarction. This occurred during and up to 2 hours after infusion of Activase® (alteplase). In many cases, patients were also taking angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors. Patients treated with Activase should be monitored during and for several hours after infusion for signs of orolingual angioedema. If orolingual angioedema develops, stop the infusion and immediately give appropriate therapy.

A plug of cholesterol that blocks an artery (cholesterol embolism) has been reported rarely in patients treated with all types of clot dissolving agents. This is a serious condition, which can be lethal, and is also associated with invasive medical procedures involving the arteries and veins.

Patients and their caregivers are encouraged to report side effects to Genentech and the FDA. They may contact Genentech by calling 1-888-835-2555. They may contact the FDA by visiting www.fda.gov/medwatch or calling 1-800-FDA-1088.

More information about acute ischemic stroke and Activase is available at www.activase.com

References: