



Treatment of Incontinence in Women with a GnRH analogue

A new therapy for women suffering from urinary incontinence associated with reproductive senescence with a GnRH analogue has been developed. A Clinical Study at the University Hospital of Zurich incorporating 35 patients has demonstrated the effectiveness of the treatment. 11 of 18 GnRH analogue treated but only 2 of 17 Placebo treated women experienced significant improvement with regard to the symptoms.

Keywords GnRH analogue, urinary incontinence, menopause

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Reference in preparation

Background Urinary incontinence affects many women of all age groups. The prevalence of incontinence has been estimated to be between 9% and 74%. With the development of menopause the frequency of lower urinary tract symptoms, such as urgency, hesitancy and frequency, are significantly increasing.

The symptoms associated with reproductive senescence in women are increased incidence of vaginal dryness, mood and behavioural changes, and urinary incontinence due to impaired urethral closures function. Until now the pathophysiological cause of urinary incontinence in women has not been elucidated in detail. Medical treatment traditionally include estrogen and/or progesterone replacement, supplementation with alpha-adrenergic agonists, beta-adrenergic receptor blocking agents, cholinergic receptor blocking compounds, cholinergic receptor stimulating drugs, nitric oxide synthase substrates, nitric oxide donors or both. Other treatment procedures include behavioural therapy, nerve stimulation, injection therapy, mechanical devices and surgery.

The hitherto existing treatments have either unsatisfactory success or show severe side effects.

Invention Thirty-five women suffering of urinary incontinence and in menopause have been treated with a GnRH analogue (Lupron 3.75 mg) or a placebo in a Clinical Trial at the University Hospital of Zurich. In the final questionnaire 11 of 18 GnRH-treated but only 2 of 17 Placebo treated women experienced a reduction of urinary incontinence. Improved conditions were found concerning the incontinent episodes and in the 24 hr pad test. In contrast to the traditional medical treatments for incontinence, treatment with GnRH analogues shows lesser side effects, it is better tolerated and has also the potential to be administered to patients with e.g. glaucoma, hypertension and cardiac arrhythmias.

Fields of Use Therapy of women suffering from urinary incontinence after menopause

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