BETACONNECT™ Autoinjector Comparator Market Research Study

Introduction

• Optimal management of multiple sclerosis (MS) requires long-term administration of disease-modifying therapies (DMTs), such as interferon or glatiramer acetate.
• Poor adherence is frequently observed among patients with MS, and this can lead to increased risk of relapse and higher medical costs.
• Autoinjectors may be used by patients to reduce injection site reactions and anxiety related to self-injection.

BETACONNECT™ is a new fully electronic autoinjector for patients undergoing treatment with Betaseron (interferon beta-1b) that includes advanced autoinjector design and technology with features not available in mechanical autoinjectors:
• Intuitive user interface, automatic needle insertion/ retraction, and ergonomic design to facilitate easier handling.
• Adjustable injection depth and speed, with visual and auditory signals that the injection has finished.
• Injection reminder and automatic recording of injection information.

The objective of the current survey was to assess patient perceptions of BETACONNECT relative to their experiences with mechanical autoinjectors for competitor products.

Methods

• Patients in the United States with relapsing forms of MS on DMTs using mechanical autoinjectors were recruited to participate in the survey.

• Autoinjector use was limited to Copaxone Autoject (glatiramer acetate), Extavia Autoject (interferon beta-1a), or Rebif Rebidose (interferon beta-1a).

• Patients using the Rebidose Rebidose pen were excluded because Rebidose is a pen device.

• All patients were compensated for their travel to the research facilities.

• Data were collected through a 60-minute in-person interview and the time spent by patients with BETACONNECT were ease of injection, user-friendly attributes, and ability to use the autoinjector without help (83%), and comfort of the autoinjector (88%), and ability to reach different injection sites (78%).

• Ideal autoinjector attributes given the most number of maximum scores were the overall ease of the injection process (26%), ability to use the autoinjector without help (11%), and minimal sound of injection (11%).

Comparison of autoinjectors with ideal autoinjector and BETACONNECT

• BETACONNECT outperformed the Copaxone autoinjector and the Rebif autoinjector across all attributes.

• Ratings for BETACONNECT also exceeded those given to the ideal autoinjector for almost all characteristics.

• When patients rated BETACONNECT, built-in dwell time (i.e., the time the needle remains in the skin after the medication has been injected) was the most valued characteristic (97%), followed by the self-check feature (84%), to customize injections (84%), and adjustment of injection speed (83%) (Figure 2).

• Other features that were rated highly included the ability to use the autoinjector without help (83%), adjustable injection depth (81%), and the ability to reach different injection sites (78%).

• Ideal autoinjector attributes given the most number of maximum scores were the overall ease of the injection process (26%), ability to use the autoinjector without help (11%), and minimal sound of injection (11%).

• The subsequent assessment of overall autoinjector preference revealed that 83% of patients preferred BETACONNECT to their current autoinjector (Figure 4).

The main reasons for the preference for BETACONNECT were ease of injection, user-friendly functions (e.g., built-in dwell time and automatic needle retraction), and quiet injections.

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