

Synolis VA efficacy over the 6 months study period was **equivalent** to the most prescribed and studied device (Synvisc One®), while it demonstrated a **significant and fast pain relief with 41% WOMAC** pain decrease at days 7, and allowed to significant number of patients to **reduce co-medication**, suggesting a **positive cost-benefit** outcome.

Long term efficacy and safety evaluation of an intra-articular injection of a non-crosslinked sodium hyaluronate (2%) combined with sorbitol (4%) vs 0.8 % hylan G-F20 in the treatment of symptomatic knee osteoarthritis: A double blind, controlled, randomized, parallel-group non-inferiority study

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Introduction

Viscosupplementation (VS) or intra-articular injections of hyaluronic (IA-HA) acid is a symptomatic treatment of osteoarthritis reducing pain and restoring mobility in the affected synovial joint^{1,2}.

Hyaluronic acid (HA) is a natural polysaccharide present in a physiological state in the synovial fluid with beneficial effect within the synovial fluid including lubrication, shock absorption, anti-inflammatory effect, chondroprotective properties, proteoglycan synthesis, and subchondral protection³.

The difference between the variety of viscosupplement care their intrinsic properties like the molecular weight, rheological properties. Surprisingly, but few comparative clinical trials on different HA compounds have been conducted.

Objectives: The primary objective of the study was to demonstrate at 24 weeks the non-inferiority of Synolis VA® , a linear hyaluronate (2%) with sorbitol 4% , (Group HA1) compared with SYNVISCO ONE ® 48 mg Hylane GF-20 (Group HA2) in terms of efficacy (pain relief) for patients with knee OA patients (Kellgren and Lawrence radiologic stage II or III) for whom pain killers failed.

Methods

Design: This was a prospective, multicenter, phase IIb, comparative, randomized, double-blinded study (i.e. one independent physician evaluator and one physician injector)

References: 1. Balazs EA. Viscosupplement for treatment of osteoarthritis: from initial discovery to current status and results. *Surg Technol Int.* 2004;12:278-89.
2. Balazs EA, Gibbs DA. Rheology of hyaluronic acid. *Biopolymers.* 1968 Jun;6(6):777-91.
3. Altman R, Manjoo A, Fierlinger A, Niazi F, Nicholls M. The mechanism of action for hyaluronic acid treatment in the osteoarthritic knee: a systematic review. *BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders.* 2015;16:321. doi:10.1186/s12891-015-0775-z.

Inclusion criteria: Women and men aged 40 to 85 years, with Kellgren-Lawrence grade II to III uni- or bilateral tibiofemoral OA according to the ACR criteria, and WOMAC A pain on VAS of at least 40 mm

Treatment used over a period of 168 days in two parallel groups :

Group HA1 : Synolis VA® 80mg HA - 160 mg sorbitol, Aptissen SA, Switzerland
Group HA2: Synvisc one® 48 mg Hylan GF-20, Genzyme Biosurgery, USA

Statistics: The primary endpoint was the change from baseline in WOMAC Pain at Day 168 (+/-15 Days). The lower margin of non-inferiority was pre-specified at -8 mm. The per protocol (PP) set was used for the main analysis.

Results

Population distribution and baseline characteristics:

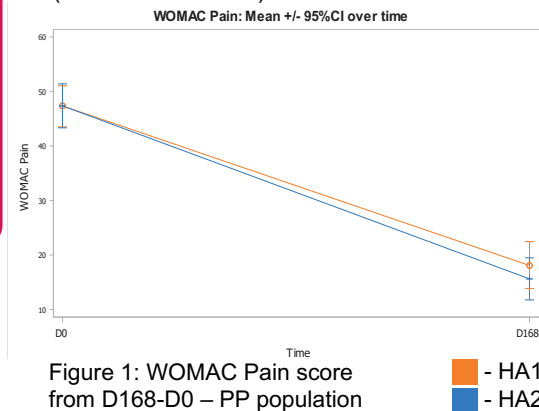
Data set: Out of 201 randomised patients (ITT population) 197 (98 % of randomised patients) presented no protocol violations (94 in group HA1 and 103 in the group HA2)

Demographic and baseline characteristics: Both groups were homogenous at baseline and OA characteristics:

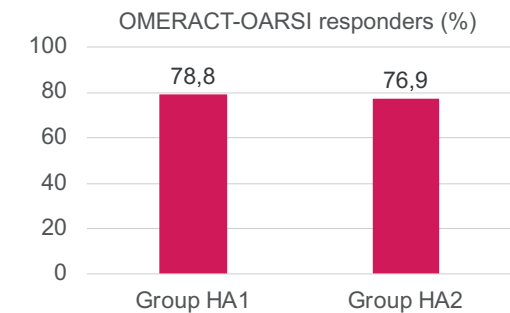
- Gender: 66% Women – 34 % Men
- Age (year; mean): 65
- BMI (kg/m²; mean): 27,4
- Kellgren and Lawrence scale :
- 30,5% Grade 2 - 69,5% Grade 3
- History pathology (mean) : 5 y.
- Average VAS Pain at inclusion (1-100) : 62.5

Primary endpoint

In both groups of treatment, a significant decrease from D0 has been observed at D168 in the PP population and ITT population (ITT data not shown).



The OMERACT-OARSI responders at D168



Secondary endpoints

Both groups showed a significant score improvement in all WOMAC parameters, with no difference between treatment groups from baseline to D168 (P <0.001), in the PP and the ITT datasets (table 2).

Outcome	HA1 n=85	HA2 n=92	Difference	P
WOMAC A change from baseline (mm)				
Mean (SE)	-29.716 (2.052)	-31.325 (2.972)	1.610 (2.846)	0.572
95% CI	(-33.766, -25.666)	(-35.218, -27.433)	(-4.008, 7.227)	
Outcome	HA1 n=85	HA2 n=92	Difference	P
WOMAC B change from baseline (mm)				
Mean (SE)	-27.20 (2.16)	-30.71 (2.07)	3.51 (2.99)	0.2411
95% CI	(-31.44, -22.96)	(-34.78, -26.64)	(-2.37, 9.39)	
Outcome	HA1 n=82	HA2 n=89	Difference	P
WOMAC C change from baseline (mm)				
Mean (SE)	-23.55 (2.01)	-27.08 (1.94)	3.52 (2.80)	0.2089
95% CI	(-27.52, -19.59)	(-30.89, -23.26)	(-1.98, 9.03)	
Outcome	HA1 n=82	HA2 n=89	Difference	P
WOMAC Total change from baseline (mm)				
Mean (SE)	-24.59 (1.98)	-28.20 (1.91)	3.61 (2.76)	0.1909
95% CI	(-28.5, -20.69)	(-31.96, -24.45)	(-1.81, 9.03)	

TABLE 2: Primary and secondary efficacy criteria at D7 (ITT population) and 6 months (PP population) post injection.

Conclusion

The statistical test applied with an upper limit of the 95% CI being at 7.227, below 8 did allow to conclude that group HA1 is non-inferior group HA2 on this parameter in this population. The same test applied on the mITT population did show a non-inferiority with an upper limit of the 95% CI being at 7.8. No safety issues were reported in any of the groups.