



Current and Future Gout Treatment Options

Overview

There are currently two major categories of medications for gout sufferers: treatments to relieve pain and reduce swelling and treatments to lower uric acid levels and prevent future attacks. The type of treatment recommended is often based on the patient's health, age, lifestyle and the severity of the condition. A number of different gout treatments may be explored to determine which is the most effective.

It has been almost 40 years since a new oral treatment for gout has been approved in the United States. There are currently two new gout treatments in Phase III development – Puricase and Febuxostat. Phase III clinical trials confirm efficacy and tolerability of a drug in large numbers of patients. In addition to studies on sick patients, special studies to check the safety of the drug are also performed.

Please visit <http://www.gouteducation.org/living/treatment.aspx> for complete information on medications and treatments currently available to gout sufferers as well as those in development. It is important that patients consult their physician to learn about complete side effects and take all medications as directed and prescribed.

Treatments in Development

Puricase

Savient Pharmaceuticals, Inc. has completed enrollment in a Phase III clinical trial

- Puricase aims to control hyperuricemia (elevated uric acid levels) in patients with symptomatic gout who are intolerant or inadequately responsive to conventional therapy
- Topline results from the Phase III clinical trial are anticipated by the end of 2007

Febuxostat

TAP Pharmaceutical Products, Inc. is currently enrolling participants in a new Phase III clinical trial in which patients will receive either allopurinol or Febuxostat for six months

- Febuxostat is designed to lower levels of serum uric acid in patients with gout
- Enrollment in the trial is anticipated to be complete by February 2008

Current Available Treatments

Relieve Pain and Reduce Swelling

Medications in this category work by suppressing the inflammation and pain of acute gout and include:

- *Adrenocorticotrophic Hormone (ACTH)*: Acthar Gel
- *Colchicine*
- *Injectable Glucocorticosteroids & Oral Glucocorticosteroids*: Methylprednisolone (Medrol), Prednisone (Deltasone) and Triamcinolone (Kenalog)
- *Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAIDs)*: Celecoxib (Celebrex), Ibuprofen (Advil), Indomethacin (Indocin) and Naproxen (Aleve, Naprosyn)

Lower Uric Acid Levels and Prevent Future Attacks

Medications in this category work by reducing uric acid levels to prevent future attacks and include:

- *Allopurinol*: Lopurin and Zyloprim
- *Probenecid*: Benemid and Probalan

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