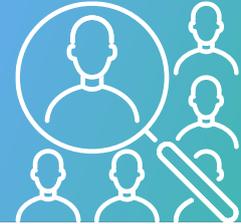


DARWIN EU® study

Clozapine and the incidence of severe neutropenia over time



Why is this study needed?

Clozapine is an effective medicine for treatment-resistant schizophrenia and Parkinson's disease psychosis but carries a risk of neutropenia. Emerging evidence suggests that risk is highest during the first months of treatment, yet blood monitoring requirements apply during long-term use. This is inconvenient for both patients and doctors and may lead to the treatment being under used or stopped too soon.



How were the results used?

PRAC used the results to update its recommendations for clozapine monitoring, including less frequent blood count monitoring. PRAC also recommended focusing solely on the absolute neutrophil count (ANC), which current evidence shows to be more specific and relevant marker for the risk of neutropenia than monitoring while blood cell count.



How was this conducted?

This [study](#) provides evidence on the timing and incidence of neutropenia in patients treated with clozapine. It examined data of new users from 5 EU countries. The findings reaffirm that these adverse events are rare and usually occur early in the treatment. This highlights why it is important to monitor patients closely at the beginning but raises the question on the necessity of prolonged intensive blood count monitoring.



Why do these results matter?

The study helped to revisit existing guidelines and update them to balance safety with easier and more accessible treatment for patients.

More information



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