

News Release

Title: The effect of pirfenidone on the prescription of antibiotics and antitussive drugs in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis: a post-hoc exploratory analysis of phase III clinical trial

Key Points/Summary

- Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a chronic and progressive fibrotic lung disease. Polypharmacy is present in more than half of IPF patients.
- Pirfenidone is an anti-fibrotic drug approved in multiple countries for the treatment of IPF, which reduces disease progression as reflected by pulmonary function.
- A post-hoc exploratory analysis of a phase III multicenter, randomized, double-blind placebo-controlled trial founded that pirfenidone tended to delay respiratory AEs and new prescription of antibiotics, which indicates the potential benefits to avoid polypharmacy.

Research Background

Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) is a chronic and progressive fibrotic lung disease. Polypharmacy is reported to be present in more than half of IPF patients, which results in the complications related to the drug-drug interactions, and increases in medical spending. There is an urgent need to find ways to avoid the polypharmacy in the management of IPF.

Research Results

We performed a post-hoc exploratory analysis of a phase III multicenter, randomized, double-blind placebo-controlled trial conducted with Japanese IPF patients to determine the efficacy and safety of pirfenidone. In this exploratory analysis, pirfenidone tended to delay respiratory AEs and new prescription of antibiotics. Our findings indicate that pirfenidone has the potential to avoid polypharmacy by delaying the prescription of antibiotics.

Research Summary and Future Perspective

We reported initial findings on the potential effect of pirfenidone on the prescription of concomitant drugs in IPF patients. It is expected that more IPF patients will benefit from anti-fibrotic drugs.

Publication

Suzuki A, Sakaguchi H, Sakamoto K, Ebina M, Azuma A, Ogura T, Taguchi Y, Suga M, Takahashi H, Sugiyama Y, Kudoh S, Nukiwa T, Miyazawa S, Kondoh Y. The effect of pirfenidone on the prescription of antibiotics and antitussive drugs in patients with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis: a post-hoc exploratory analysis of phase III clinical trial. *Chest*. 2021: S0012-3692(21)01090-4. doi: 10.1016/j.chest.2021.05.058.

Japanese ver.

https://www.med.nagoya-u.ac.jp/medical_J/research/pdf/CHEST_210605.pdf