

Research Article

Mirabegron Improves Nocturia, Nocturia-Associated Quality of Life, and Sleep Quality in Female Patients with Overactive Bladder

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Abstract

Objective: To evaluate the effects of mirabegron, a β_3 -adrenoceptor agonist, on nocturia, nocturia-associated Quality of Life (QOL), and sleep quality in female patients with Overactive Bladder (OAB) patients.

Materials and Methods: This prospective, multicenter study involved 60 female patients with OAB who experienced two or more nocturnal voids per night and visited 1 of 16 medical institutes. Mirabegron (50 mg/day) was administered for 12 weeks. The frequency-volume chart and various questionnaires (International Prostate Symptom Score, QOL index, OAB Symptom Score, Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index [PSQI], and Nocturia QOL [N-QOL]) were examined before therapy and at 4, 8, and 12 weeks after mirabegron administration. The Wilcoxon signed rank test or paired t-test was used to compare the parameters before and after treatment.

Results: The mean patient age was 75.3 ± 6.8 years. In total, 58 patients were analyzed; 2 withdrew consent and were excluded. After 12 weeks of mirabegron treatment, there was a significant improvement in the nocturnal voiding frequency, nocturnal urine volume per void, urine volume of the first nocturnal void, and N-QOL scores. The mean hours of undisturbed sleep increased after 12 weeks of treatment, although this increase was not statistically significant. The PSQI was significantly improved after 12 weeks of treatment. Side effects were seen in five patients (8.6%); however, all side effects were mild.

Conclusion: Mirabegron improved the nocturnal voiding frequency by increasing the nocturnal bladder capacity, thereby improving QOL by increasing sleep quality in female patients with nocturia.

Keywords: Mirabegron; Nocturia; Overactive bladder; Quality of life; Sleep disorder

Abbreviations

OAB: Overactive Bladder; QOL: Quality of Life; N-QOL: Nocturia Quality of Life Questionnaire; OABSS: Overactive Bladder Symptom Score; I-PSS: International Prostatic Symptom Score; PSQI, Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index; HUS: Hours of Undisturbed Sleep

Introduction

In 2002, the International Continence Society defined nocturia as “waking one or more times to void during the night” [1]. Nocturia has been associated with urinary bladders to rage disorders, as observed in patients with benign prostatic hyperplasia and Overactive Bladder (OAB); it has also been associated with polyuria, nocturnal polyuria, and sleep disorders [2]. Nocturia significantly compromises patients’ Quality of Life (QOL) [3,4] and is usually the most problematic symptom among a variety of lower urinary tract symptoms [5]. Although treatment for nocturia depends on the underlying pathology, nocturia is reportedly improved by the administration of anticholinergic agents, which are one of the first-line drugs for treatment of OAB [6-8].

Mirabegron, a selective β_3 -adrenoceptor agonist, was recently developed as a therapeutic agent for OAB. Relaxation of the human bladder during the period of urine storage occurs due to binding of noradrenaline released from the sympathetic nerves to β_3 -adrenoceptors expressed in the smooth muscle of the bladder [9-12]. Mirabegron binds to β_3 -adrenoceptors, resulting in enhanced relaxation of the bladder during urine storage and an increased bladder capacity, thus improving frequency, urgency, and urgency incontinence associated with OAB [13]. Usefulness of mirabegron in relief of OAB symptoms has already been investigated in many studies [14-18], but few reports have evaluated the effectiveness of mirabegron in patients with nocturia.

In this study, we investigated the efficacy and safety of mirabegron for nocturia in female patients with OAB. The Nocturia QOL Questionnaire (N-QOL) [19,20], a QOL questionnaire specific for nocturia, was used to assess the impact of mirabegron on QOL.

Materials and Methods

This study was initiated after approval from the institutional

Table 1: Effects of mirabegron on parameters of frequency–volume chart.

	Before treatment	After 12 weeks of mirabegron [†]	P value
Frequency–volume chart parameters			
Nocturnal voiding frequency	2.5 ± 1.1	1.9 ± 1.0	0.0128 [†]
Daytime voiding frequency	8.9 ± 2.2	7.4 ± 1.8	<0.0001 ^{***†}
24-h voiding frequency	11.3 ± 2.5	9.3 ± 1.9	<0.0001 ^{***†}
Daytime urine volume (ml)	894.0 ± 283.6	885.1 ± 322.4	0.1763 [§]
Nocturnal urine volume (ml)	612.3 ± 259.5	556.7 ± 230.4	0.1035 [§]
24-h urine volume (ml)	1506.3 ± 451.5	1441.7 ± 459.5	0.0689 [§]
Nocturnal polyuria index (%)	40.3 ± 10.6	38.8 ± 10.6	0.6379 [§]
Urine volume per void (ml)	141.1 ± 49.1	161.4 ± 69.6	0.0032 ^{***§}
Nocturnal urine volume per void (ml)	263.0 ± 98.9	318.9 ± 163.6	0.0374 [§]
Daytime urine volume per void (ml)	107.4 ± 35.0	124.7 ± 51.9	0.0054 ^{***§}
Urine volume of first nocturnal void (ml)	184.5 ± 83.6	228.1 ± 110.2	0.0495 [§]
Hours of undisturbed sleep	160.6 ± 74.3	203.8 ± 96.4	0.0632 [§]
[†] 50 mg of oral mirabegron once daily; [†] Wilcoxon signed rank test; [§] paired t-test			
*P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001			

Table 2: Effects of mirabegron on International Prostatic Symptom Score (I-PSS) and Overactive Bladder Symptom Score (OABSS).

	Before treatment	After 12 weeks of mirabegron [†]	P value
I-PSS			
Total score	12.4 ± 5.8	7.3 ± 4.8	<0.0001 ^{***}
Voiding score	3.7 ± 3.5	2.7 ± 2.9	0.0132 [*]
Storage score	7.2 ± 3.0	3.9 ± 1.6	<0.0001 ^{***}
Post-micturition score	1.5 ± 1.6	0.9 ± 1.2	0.00132 ^{**}
Nighttime frequency	2.5 ± 0.9	1.9 ± 0.8	<0.0001 ^{***}
I-PSS quality of life	4.8 ± 1.1	3.0 ± 1.5	<0.0001 ^{***}
OABSS			
Total score	9.0 ± 2.4	4.5 ± 2.2	<0.0001 ^{***}
Daytime frequency	1.0 ± 0.5	0.8 ± 0.4	<0.0018 ^{***}
Nighttime frequency	2.5 ± 0.8	1.8 ± 0.8	<0.0001 ^{***}
Urgency	3.3 ± 1.0	1.2 ± 1.2	<0.0001 ^{***}
Urgency incontinence	2.1 ± 1.6	0.7 ± 0.9	<0.0001 ^{***}
Differences compared using the Wilcoxon signed rank test			
[†] 50 mg of oral mirabegron once daily			
*P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001			

review boards of each of the 16 individual medical centers that participated in this study. All participants provided written informed consent, and the study protocol conformed to the provisions of the Declaration of Helsinki (as revised in Edinburgh 2000).

The patients comprised 60 female outpatients with OAB aged ≥50 years with an average of two or more nocturnal voids per night according to a voiding diary. All patients were able to complete the questionnaire by themselves, go to the bathroom without assistance, and measure the voided volume by themselves. The exclusion criteria were serious cardiac diseases and arrhythmias; serious hepatic diseases, renal impairment, and glaucoma; having taken anticholinergic agents for treatment of OAB within the previous 3 months; hypokalemia; dysuria; ≥100 mL of residual urine; polyuria

with a mean daily voiding volume of ≥40 mL/kg; an indwelling catheter or intermittent self-urination; and urinary tract infection, urinary calculi, interstitial cystitis, and/or bladder tumors.

All enrolled patients were administered 50 mg of mirabegron after a meal once daily for 12 weeks.

The patients completed questionnaires on their symptoms (OAB Symptom Score [OABSS], International Prostatic Symptom Score [I-PSS], I-PSS-QOL score, N-QOL, and Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index [PSQI]) before treatment and at 4, 8, and 12 weeks after the start of treatment. In addition, the patients kept a voiding diary for 3 days before each study visit. At each visit, the residual urine volume, blood pressure, and pulse rate were measured, and medication

Table 3: Effects of mirabegron on Nocturia Quality of Life Questionnaire (N-QOL) and Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI).

	Before treatment	After 12 weeks of mirabegron†	P value
N-QOL			
Total score	61.0 ± 18.8	77.6 ± 16.0	<0.0001***
Sleep/energy domain	64.9 ± 18.6	77.4 ± 17.7	0.0003***
Bother/concern domain	60.6 ± 21.5	79.1 ± 15.1	<0.0001***
Global health status	5.0 ± 2.9	2.9 ± 2.4	<0.0001***
PSQI	9.2 ± 2.5	7.2 ± 3.2	0.0022**
Differences compared using the Wilcoxon signed rank test			
†50 mg of oral mirabegron once daily			
*P < 0.05, **P < 0.01, ***P < 0.001			

compliance and adverse events were recorded.

The primary endpoint was a change in the nocturnal voiding frequency as recorded in the voiding diary. The secondary endpoints were changes in the following: the total score and subscale scores on the N-QOL and global health status; total score and individual symptom scores on the OABSS; total score and scores for voiding, storage, and post-micturition symptoms on the I-PSS; the I-PSS-QOL; and the PSQI.

Based on the results recorded in the voiding diary, changes over time in the following parameters were investigated: voiding frequency per day, 24-h voiding volume, urine volume per void, daytime voiding frequency, day time urine volume, nocturnal voiding frequency, nocturnal urine volume, nocturnal polyuria index, urgency episodes per day, urgency incontinence episodes per day, Hours of Undisturbed Sleep (HUS), and maximum bladder capacity.

For statistical analyses, the values of each parameter before and after mirabegron administration were compared using the Wilcoxon signed rank test or the paired t-test. The significance level was set at 0.05.

Results

In total, 58 patients were analyzed (mean age, 75.3 ± 6.8 years) after 2 patients were excluded because they withdrew consent.

Changes in nocturia as recorded in the voiding diary for each patient and changes in individual parameters on the voiding record are shown in (Table 1). The nocturnal voiding frequency significantly decreased from 2.5 ± 1.1 times per night before treatment to 1.9 ± 1.0 times per night after 12 weeks of treatment. In addition, significant improvements were observed in the daytime voiding frequency and the 24-h voiding frequency after 12 weeks of treatment. There were no significant changes in the urine volume parameters before and after treatment (24-h urine volume, daytime urine volume, and nocturnal urine volume). There was also no significant change in the nocturnal polyuria index after treatment. However, there was a significant increase in both the day time and night time urine volume per void after 12 weeks of treatment. In addition, the urine volume of the first nocturnal void significantly increased from 184.5 ± 83.6 mL before treatment to 228.1 ± 110.2 mL after 12 weeks of treatment. The mean HUS was extended by ≥40 min after 12 weeks of treatment, although this difference in HUS before and after treatment was not significant (Table 1).

The questionnaire results and changes in the I-PSS and OABSS before and after treatment are shown in (Table 2). The total I-PSS and the I-PSS for voiding, storage, and post-micturition symptoms were significantly improved after 12 weeks of treatment. The I-PSS nocturia symptoms significantly improved from 2.5 ± 0.9 points before treatment to 1.9 ± 0.8 points after 12 weeks of treatment. The I-PSS-QOL score also significantly improved from 4.8 ± 1.1 points before treatment to 3.0 ± 1.5 points after 12 weeks of treatment. The total OABSS and the subscales of individual OAB symptoms were also significantly improved after 12 weeks of treatment; the nocturia score significantly improved from 2.5 ± 0.8 points before treatment to 1.8 ± 0.8 points after 12 weeks of treatment.

Table 3 shows the N-QOL scores and the PSQI before and after treatment. The total N-QOL score significantly improved from 61.0 ± 18.8 points before treatment to 77.6 ± 16.0 points after 12 weeks of treatment, with significant improvements in the two subscale domains of sleep/energy and bother/concern. The global health status also significantly improved from 5.0 ± 2.9 points before treatment to 2.9 ± 2.4 points after 12 weeks of treatment. For the PSQI, 30 patients with a score of ≥5.5 points (suggestive of a sleep disorder) before treatment were evaluated; the PSQI significantly improved from 9.2 ± 2.5 points before treatment to 7.2 ± 3.2 points after 12 weeks of treatment.

Adverse events possibly related to mirabegron occurred in five patients (8.3%). These adverse events were dry mouth in two patients, constipation in one patient, diarrhea in one patient, and palpitations in one patient; all adverse events were mild in severity and did not cause discontinuation of treatment.

Discussion

In the present study, we evaluated the efficacy and safety of mirabegron for nocturia in female patients with OAB. Many previous studies have indicated the efficacy of mirabegron for OAB symptoms [14-18], but these studies used the voiding frequency and urinary incontinence frequency as the primary endpoints. Few studies have used the nocturnal voiding frequency as a primary endpoint in patients with nocturia. Based on the voiding diary entries in the present study, 12 weeks of mirabegron administration significantly reduced the nocturnal voiding frequency, which was the primary endpoint in this study. This decrease in nocturnal voiding frequency was also seen in the nocturia parameters of the I-PSS and the OABSS (secondary endpoints); hence, the effect of mirabegron on nocturia

was confirmed by multiple parameters. In addition, 12 weeks of mirabegron administration significantly improved OAB symptoms other than the nocturnal voiding frequency, which is similar to the findings of previous studies [14-18].

Nocturia considerably compromises QOL [3,4]. The disease-specific QOL questionnaire for nocturia is the N-QOL. The usefulness of this questionnaire has been recognized by the International Consultation on Incontinence [19,20], and a Japanese version of the N-QOL has also been developed [21,22]. In a recent study, oral administration of 25 µg desmopressin significantly reduced the nocturnal voiding frequency in female patients with two or more nocturnal voids per night, with a significant improvement in the N-QOL score [23]. In addition, there was a significant decrease in the nocturnal voiding frequency and significant improvements in the N-QOL scores after administration of imidafenacin in male patients with lower urinary tract symptoms in whom OAB had persisted after administration of an α 1-blocker for ≥ 1 month [24]. However, no study has evaluated the effects of mirabegron on nocturia using the N-QOL as an indicator. The present study demonstrated that mirabegron significantly reduced the nocturnal voiding frequency in female patients with nocturia, and the significant improvement in the N-QOL contributed to the overall improvement in QOL in patients with nocturia.

The present study also revealed that mirabegron significantly improved the PSQI, a sleep disorder index; this suggests that mirabegron is also effective for sleep disorders. The HUS is a useful indicator in evaluating the quality of sleep [25,26]. The HUS reportedly improves with the improvement of nocturia by administration of anticholinergic drugs [27,28]; the results of the present study suggest that mirabegron, similarly to anticholinergic drugs, could prolong the HUS by improving the nocturnal voiding frequency, thus contributing to improved quality of sleep and reduction of sleep disorder symptoms.

The main mode of action of mirabegron is that it binds to β 3-receptors in the smooth muscle of the bladder to relax the muscle, leading to an increase in bladder capacity [13]. It also significantly increased the voided volume during the day and night in the present study; this effect may be based on the ability of mirabegron to relax the bladder smooth muscle, resulting in a reduction of the voiding frequency. In addition, the urine volume of the first nocturnal void significantly increased, suggesting that this may be related to the prolonged HUS. A recent report revealed that some anticholinergic drugs effectively reduce the nocturnal urine volume and the nocturnal polyuria index and that this effect may be involved in the reduced nocturnal voiding frequency [28]. However, the detailed mechanism of action has not been elucidated. In the present study, mirabegron neither significantly changed the voided volume during the day or night nor changed the nocturnal polyuria index, which suggests that mirabegron had no effect on reducing the nocturnal urine volume.

The major limitation of the present study was that it was not a placebo-controlled trial with comparison between treatment and control groups. In addition, the study included a limited number of patients. However, this study was grounded in actual clinical practice, and the results support the usefulness of mirabegron for nocturia. A large-scale, placebo-controlled, randomized trial is required in

the future. Furthermore, this study was conducted in only female patients, and the effects of mirabegron on nocturia in male patients were not evaluated. Male patients were excluded because older men often develop lower urinary tract obstruction such as that caused by prostatic hyperplasia, and they therefore have a more complicated pathology than females. Future investigation of male patients with nocturia is required.

Many factors are involved in the development of nocturia, and nocturnal polyuria is one of the major factors. In this study, polyuric patients with mean daily voided volume of ≥ 40 mL/kg were excluded, but patients with nocturnal polyuria were not excluded. Thus, the nocturnal polyuria index before treatment was 40.3%, and more than half of the participants had nocturnal polyuria. Although it is presumed from the results of this study that mirabegron may also be effective in some patients with nocturnal polyuria, further investigation of the effects of mirabegron in these patients is required.

Conclusion

The present study showed that mirabegron, a β 3-adrenoceptor agonist, improved the nocturnal voiding frequency by increasing the nocturnal bladder capacity and thereby improved the QOL by increasing sleep quality in female patients with OAB and nocturia.

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Disclosure

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