Intratympanic dexamethasone plus melatonin versus melatonin in the treatment of acute idiopathic tinnitus

Submission date	Recruitment status	Prospectively registered
26/11/2013	No longer recruiting	Protocol
Registration date	Overall study status	Statistical analysis plan
16/12/2013	Completed	Results
Last Edited	Condition category	Individual participant data
16/12/2013	Ear, Nose and Throat	Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Intratympanic drug delivery (a surgical technique of delivering medication into the middle ear) results in a higher drug concentration and very low side effects. Intratympanic dexamethasone has been used for treating a wide range of inner ear diseases and oral melatonin works well in relieving idiopathic tinnitus (ringing in the ears).

The study aims to assess whether intratympanic dexamethasone in association with oral melatonin is better than oral melatonin alone in the treatment of acute idiopathic tinnitus.

Who can participate?

Adult male and female patients suffering acute tinnitus with no apparent cause for it.

What does the study involve?

Patients will be randomly allocated to one of two treatment groups. One group of patients with acute idiopathic tinnitus will be treated with oral melatonin alone and another group will receive oral melatonin and intratympanic dexamethasone. At the end of the study we shall compare the relief of tinnitus in each group.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participation?

Participants in the intratympanic dexamethasone plus melatonin group may experience a faster relief of tinnitus. The side effects include complications of intratympanic drug delivery, mainly acute otitis media (ear infection), transitory vertigo (dizziness), persistent eardrum perforations and hearing loss.

Where is the study run from?

The study is conducted at Spitalul Clinic CF Cluj Napoca, Romania.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for? The study will start in December 2013 and will run until March 2014.

Who is funding the study?
The study is funded by the researcher.

Who is the main contact?

Dr Chirtes Felician

Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

Contact name

Dr Felician Dorin Chirtes

Contact details

st Henri Barbusse nr 3-5 bloc Doina, ap 12 Cluj napoca Romania 400616

Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

864/20.09.2013

Study information

Scientific Title

Intratympanic dexamethasone plus melatonin versus melatonin in the treatment of acute idiopathic tinnitus a randomized clinical trial

Study objectives

We hypothesize that the association of intratympanic dexamethasone and oral melatonin will result in faster relief of tinnitus during the treatment of acute idiopathic tinnitus compared to oral melatonin alone.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Ethics Committee of the Iuliu Haţieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 22/11/2013, Ref : 917

Study design

Randomized interventional treatment trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Acute idiopathic tinnitus

Interventions

Patients are randomly allocated to one of two groups. In one group the patients will be given melatonin plus four intra-tympanic dexamethasone injections, one on each 7 consecutive initial days. The patients will be given 3 mg of melatonin, 1 tablet nightly 1 to 2 hours before bedtime for 8 weeks. In the other group, patients will get melatonin tablets and intra-tympanic isotonic sodium chloride solution following the above mentioned schedule.

Follow-up: 3 months

Intervention Type

Drug

Phase

Not Applicable

Drug/device/biological/vaccine name(s)

Melatonin, dexamethsaone

Primary outcome(s)

Patients selected as eligible will complete specific questionnaires at the beginning of the study and 3 months after the beginning of the treatment. Improvement in tinnitus should be assessed using three outcome measures:

- 1. Tinnitus loudness score (on a 10-point scale, 10 being loudest)
- 2. Tinnitus awareness score (percentage of the time the subject is aware of tinnitus)
- 3. Tinnitus Handicap Inventory (THI)

According to previous stated criteria, we define improvement as a >10% reduction of tinnitus awareness score, >2-point reduction of tinnitus loudness score, and >20-point reduction in THI. Cure is defined as a reduction in tinnitus awareness score to 0%.

Key secondary outcome(s))

Side effects of intratympanic dexamethasone:

- 1. Acute otitis media
- 2. Persistent eardrum perforation
- 3. Vertigo
- 4. Hearing loss

Completion date

01/03/2014

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

- 1. Male and female age ≥18 years
- 2. Willing to be assigned to any of the treatment groups
- 3. Informed consent

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 years

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

Patients with identifiable causes of acute tinnitus

Date of first enrolment

02/12/2013

Date of final enrolment

01/03/2014

Locations

Countries of recruitment

Romania

Study participating centre st Henri Barbusse nr 3-5

Cluj napoca Romania 400616

Sponsor information

Organisation

Iuliu Hatieganu University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca (Romania)

ROR

https://ror.org/051h0cw83

Funder(s)

Funder type

Other

Funder Name

Investigator initiated and funded (Romania)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type Details Date created Date added Peer reviewed? Patient-facing?

Participant information sheet
Participant information sheet
11/11/2025 No Yes