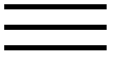


Esomeprazole once daily for 6 months is effective therapy for maintaining healed erosive esophagitis and for controlling gastroesophageal reflux disease symptoms: a.

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The American Journal of Gastroenterology

Volume 96, Issue 1, January 2001, Pages 27-34

Rapid communication

Esomeprazole once daily for 6 months is effective therapy for maintaining healed erosive esophagitis and for controlling gastroesophageal reflux disease symptoms: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of efficacy and safety

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Abstract

OBJECTIVE:

Esomeprazole, the *S*-isomer of omeprazole, achieves a significantly greater healing rate and symptom resolution of erosive esophagitis than that achieved by omeprazole. The objective of this study is to assess the efficacy of the new proton pump inhibitor esomeprazole in preventing relapse over a prolonged period in patients with healed erosive esophagitis

METHODS:

A total of 318 gastroesophageal reflux patients whose erosive esophagitis was healed in a comparative study of esomeprazole 40 mg, 20 mg, or omeprazole 20 mg, were randomized to maintenance therapy with once daily esomeprazole 40 mg, 20 mg, or 10 mg, or placebo in a U.S., double-blind multicenter trial.

RESULTS:

After 6 months, healing was maintained (cumulative life table rates) in 93.6% (95% CI 87.4–99.7) of patients treated with esomeprazole 40 mg, 93.2% (95% CI 87.4–99.0) treated with esomeprazole 20 mg, and 57.1% (95% CI 45.2–69) treated with esomeprazole 10 mg; $p < 0.001$ vs placebo (29.1%; 95% CI 17.7–40.3). Of patients relapsing, mean time to first recurrence of esophagitis increased with dose, from 34 days (placebo) to 78 days (10 mg), 115 days (20 mg), and 163 days (40 mg). Patients treated with esomeprazole had less frequent and less severe heartburn than those treated with placebo. At month 6, more than 70% of patients being treated with esomeprazole remained symptom-free.

CONCLUSIONS:

Esomeprazole is effective and well tolerated in the maintenance of a healing erosive esophagitis. Esomeprazole 40 mg and 20 mg maintain healing in over 90% of patients while providing effective control of heartburn symptoms.



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