Evaluating Pregabalin in Terminal Cancer patients with Chronic Neuropathic Pain and Depression: An Observational Case Series

Dr. Mrinal Borgohain

Seasoned research, Medical Lead Oncology, MSN laboratories Pvt. Ltd, Hyderabad, India

Dr. Pinaki Chakraborty

Prof. Oncology, Gauhati Medical College and Hospital, Guwahati, India.

Abstract:

Background: Chronic Neuropathic pain and depression significantly impact terminal cancer patients' lives. This study investigates the efficacy and safety of pregabalin, an anticonvulsant commonly used for neuropathic pain, in alleviating pain intensity and depressive symptoms in this population.

Method: This observational case series included 10 terminal cancer patients, pregabalin was administered at a starting dose of 150 mg twice daily, adjustable up to 300 mg based on tolerance and response. Pain intensity and depression severity were measured using the Brief Pain Inventory (BPI) and the Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HDRS) at baseline, 4 weeks, and 8 weeks. Side effects were recorded via a self-reported questionnaire.

Results: Results indicated a significant reduction in both pain and depression. Mean BPI scores decreased from 7.8 to 4.1, and HDRS scores from 18.5 to 9.8 over the study period. Side effects included dizziness (50%), drowsiness (40%), and weight gain (30%), but no severe adverse effects occurred. All participants completed the study, with 30% needing dose adjustments.

Conclusion: In conclusion, pregabalin effectively reduces chronic neuropathic pain and depression in terminal cancer patients, with a manageable safety profile, suggesting its potential utility in this context. Further research is needed with larger sample sizes.

Keywords:

Pregabalin, Chronic Neuropathic pain, Depression, Brief Pain Inventory, Hamilton Depression Rating Scale.