NRG ONCOLOGY

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Summary of Research Results for NRG-CC004: Comparing Two Dose Levels of Bupropion Versus Placebo for Sexual Desire

Introduction

This summary reviews the main results of the study. There may be benefits and risks to learning study results. A benefit for some people is knowing that they contributed to the research and their participation is appreciated. Another benefit is what was learned from the study may help them make decisions about their health care now or in the future.

For some people, a risk is getting results that make them feel distressed or remember a difficult time in their lives. Some people may feel upset about the study results if the study did not help their condition.

Please talk with your doctor about any questions you may have about this summary. Your doctor can help explain these results to you in relation to your medical concerns.

NRG Oncology thanks you for your participation in this research. Your participation has helped us learn about and advance cancer care.

Background of the study

This study addressed the common side effect of decreased sexual health in women who have been treated for breast or gynecologic cancer. The study tested whether bupropion, a medication that is approved for depression and smoking cessation, can improve sexual desire compared to placebo.

What did the study involve?

After enrolling on this study, participants were randomized to one of three study groups. Two different doses of bupropion, 150 mg extended release (XL) and 300 mg extended release (XL), were compared to *a placebo.*

What were the major findings of the study?

Two hundred thirty women were randomly assigned from 72 institutions through the NRG Oncology network. Participants in all three arms reported improvement in sexual desire after cancer treatment. Bupropion was not more effective than placebo in improving sexual desire. There were no significant differences between groups in change of the desire question scores of the Female Sexual Function Index, a very well-respected questionnaire measuring sexual function. More research is needed to support sexual function in female cancer survivors.

Are there any steps that may need to be taken at this time or in the future for those who participated in the study?

For participants in this study, there are no immediate or long-term steps that need to be considered because of these findings. All participants in this study have completed their treatment and should be followed by their doctor.

What did the researchers learn that will be helpful to other people with this condition?

Based on the study results, there is not much we can recommend in terms of desire. However, it was important that in this study, over 90% of the women who participated had vulvo-vaginal dryness or pain with intercourse that was moderate to severe. This could have been a barrier in evaluating bupropion for desire because vulvo-vaginal health affects desire. If a woman has vulvo-vaginal dryness or pain, she should let her health care provider know as there are treatments to help this.

Who can I contact for further information?

Please talk with your doctor about any questions or concerns you may have about this summary. Further details about the design, conduct and results of this study are available at www.clinicaltrials.gov.

List of publications with references that were generated from this study.

1. Barton DL, Pugh SL, Ganz PA, Plaxe SC, Koontz BF, Carter J, Greyz-Yusupov N, Page SJ, Rowland KM Jr, Balcueva EP, Nabeel S, Basil JB, Hill ML, Muller CY, Bell MC, Deshmukh S, Kachnic LA. Randomized Controlled Phase II Evaluation of Two Dose Levels of Bupropion Versus Placebo for Sexual Desire in Female Cancer Survivors: NRG-CC004. J Clin Oncol. 2022 Feb 1;40(4):324-334. doi: 10.1200/JCO.21.01473. Epub 2021 Dec 9. PMID: 34882500; PMCID: PMC8797544.