Euflexxa™ is the First Non-avian Hyaluronic Acid Available in the U.S.

Ferring Pharmaceuticals (Suffern, NY), recently launched Euflexxa™, a highly purified injectable hyaluronic acid (HA) for painful osteoarthritis (OA) of the knee. Euflexxa is the first and only non-avian-derived HA approved in the U.S. (approved December 3, 2004); Ferring acquired Euflexxa in July, 2005 and launched sales on November 8, 2005.

Euflexxa is similar to HA in healthy human synovial fluid and free of chemical cross-linking, which lower the risk for adverse reactions (1-6). Euflexxa is derived from a bacterial fermentation process, not an avian source (chicken or rooster combs), thus eliminating the risk for allergic reactions (1,2).

Stanley H. Dysart, MD, MBA, Chair of the Pinnacle Orthopedic Research Institute in Georgia said, “The advantages of this product are it is bioengineered, non-avian derived, and has the highest molecular weight available in a non-cross-linked hyaluronic acid. A bioengineered, non-avian-derived product should translate into a modality that has similar efficacy, but fewer adverse events than other hyaluronate products, such as effusions, knee discomfort, and the occasional pseudoseptic reaction,” he said.

Dr. Dysart has injected approximately 60 knees with Euflexxa and has not seen effusions of the type that he has seen with other HA products. “However, I will need to see many more patients before I can conclusively say it has a better response. To date, I have not noted any patients with knee discomfort or pseudoseptic effects,” Dr. Dysart added. “More studies need to be completed before we have the full story on this product; however, at first glance the product appears to be effective and advantageous for my patients.”

Clinical Study Shows Euflexxa’s Advantages

A prospective, multicenter, double-blind controlled trial comparing Euflexxa and Synvisc® randomized 160 participants to receive Euflexxa and 161 to receive Synvisc in 3 weekly injections. (7)

Both groups had statistically significant and comparable improvements of baseline pain scores (p = 0.0001) (Euflexxa score = 29.8 mm [-61.6%]; Synvisc score = 28.8 mm [-54.9%]). Euflexxa showed a significant advantage over Synvisc in the number of patients requiring supplemental simple analgesics (p = 0.013), joint effusion (p = 0.0015), and patient satisfaction (p = 0.03). At study end, 63% of Euflexxa participants were symptom free, versus 52% of Synvisc participants (p = 0.038). Fifty percent of Euflexxa participants were “very satisfied” versus 37% for the Synvisc group.

Jeffrey Rosen, MD, Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery at New York University Medical Center and the Hospital for Joint Diseases, began injecting Euflexxa shortly after its launch. Although it is too soon to assess any clinical results for the 20 to 30 patients who have received Euflexxa, Dr. Rosen believes that “Consideration should be given to trying this product, as it is the only non-avian-derived HA product. For those patients who are using a HA product, Euflexxa represents an alternative that sets it aside from other products in this class of medication,” he said.

Euflexxa (1% sodium hyaluronate) is the first and only non-avian-derived hyaluronic acid indicated for the treatment of pain due to osteoarthritis of the knee. The three-injection treatment regimen is for patients who have failed to respond adequately to conservative nonpharmacologic therapy and simple analgesics. It is proven to offer better drug-free symptom relief from osteoarthritic knee pain over a 12-week period than the current leading hyaluronic acid therapy. Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Inc., is part of the Ferring Group, a privately owned, international pharmaceutical company.

Synvisc is a registered trademark of the Genzyme Corporation

For more information concerning Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Inc., call 1-845-770-2657, or fax to 1-845-770-2662; or visit the company’s Web site at www.FerringUSA.com.

References:

7. Kitchen M, Marshall D. A double-blind randomized controlled trial comparing alternate forms of nonpharmacologic therapy and simple analgesics to respond adequately to conservative treatment of pain due to osteoarthritis of the knee. The three-injection treatment regimen is for patients who have failed to respond adequately to conservative nonpharmacologic therapy and simple analgesics. It is proven to offer better drug-free symptom relief from osteoarthritic knee pain over a 12-week period than the current leading hyaluronic acid therapy. Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Inc., is part of the Ferring Group, a privately owned, international pharmaceutical company.

Synvisc is a registered trademark of the Genzyme Corporation

For more information concerning Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Inc., call 1-845-770-2657, or fax to 1-845-770-2662; or visit the company’s Web site at www.FerringUSA.com.

References:

7. Kitchen M, Marshall D. A double-blind randomized controlled trial comparing alternate forms of nonpharmacologic therapy and simple analgesics to respond adequately to conservative treatment of pain due to osteoarthritis of the knee. The three-injection treatment regimen is for patients who have failed to respond adequately to conservative nonpharmacologic therapy and simple analgesics. It is proven to offer better drug-free symptom relief from osteoarthritic knee pain over a 12-week period than the current leading hyaluronic acid therapy. Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Inc., is part of the Ferring Group, a privately owned, international pharmaceutical company.

Synvisc is a registered trademark of the Genzyme Corporation

For more information concerning Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Inc., call 1-845-770-2657, or fax to 1-845-770-2662; or visit the company’s Web site at www.FerringUSA.com.

References:

7. Kitchen M, Marshall D. A double-blind randomized controlled trial comparing alternate forms of nonpharmacologic therapy and simple analgesics to respond adequately to conservative treatment of pain due to osteoarthritis of the knee. The three-injection treatment regimen is for patients who have failed to respond adequately to conservative nonpharmacologic therapy and simple analgesics. It is proven to offer better drug-free symptom relief from osteoarthritic knee pain over a 12-week period than the current leading hyaluronic acid therapy. Ferring Pharmaceuticals, Inc., is part of the Ferring Group, a privately owned, international pharmaceutical company.