

**REPORT OF 44 PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM SYMPTOMATIC HIP OSTEOARTHRITIS TREATED WITH INTRA-ARTICULAR ADMINISTRATION OF HILAN G-F 20 (SYNVISC)**

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*Aim of the study:* Report of the duration of clinical benefit after ultrasound-guided IA injection of hylan G-F 20 (Synvisc®) in patients with symptomatic hip OA.

*Materials and methods:* Adults, ambulatory patients suffering from hip OA grade I to III according to Kellgren and Lawrence were considered eligible for the Study. Patients were injected with one syringe (2 ml) of hylan G-F 20, possibly repeated if clinically necessary every 3 months, under ultrasound guidance. A 7 MHz linear or 3.5 MHz convex transducer was used with a sterilised biopsy guide attached. The hip joint was scanned by means of an anterior parasagittal approach. The efficacy of the injection was assessed by using the WOMAC index, global patient evaluation, global physician evaluation and a hip OA VAS pain score at baseline, and then at 3, 6 and 12 months after the first injection of hylan G-F 20. Safety was assessed by recording any adverse event during the follow up period.

*Results:* Forty-four patients were enrolled in our Day-Hospital for treatment, 16 had bilateral hip OA. Seven patients dropped out for hip replacement. Twenty-one patients had 12 months follow up, seven patients had 9 months, nine patients had 6 months follow up. In the 44 patients, 28 patients received 1 injection, 14 patients received 2 injections, one patient received 3 injections and one patient 4 injections for a total of 77 injections. A reduction of the WOMAC index and pain VAS, global patient evaluation and global physician evaluation respectively was observed either at 3- 6-9-12 months follow up group vs baseline. All these differences are statistically significant. No septic or systemic complications were reported.

*Conclusions:* Hylan G-F 20 intra-articular treatment is safe and may have a beneficial impact on pain and function for 12 months in hip OA patients. Further studies with control group are warranted in order to establish the optimal dosing regimen of hylan G-F 20 and to evaluate the precise duration of its benefit in hip OA.