A Dose-Ranging, Placebo-Controlled, Randomized Trial of Alosetron in Patients With Functional Dyspepsia


Functional dyspepsia (FD) is a common gastrointestinal disorder that reduces patients’ quality of life, causes increased medical expenditures, and results in increased absences from work. The symptoms associated with FD can mimic heartburn, cause pain in the chest, or trigger symptoms of feeling very full after eating. Currently there are no medications available anywhere in the world that have been shown to satisfactorily treat FD. In the current study, we evaluated a drug called alosetron for its potential use in the treatment of FD.

Alosetron works by blocking a specific type of receptor where serotonin can bind and this serves to reduce pain and discomfort in the gastrointestinal tract. The effects of alosetron and placebo were evaluated in 320 patients with FD. Alosetron was shown to improve multiple symptoms in patients with FD—specifically, symptoms of pain, discomfort, and early fullness after eating. Evaluation of the safety profile of the drug showed constipation to occur much more in patients taking alosetron as compared to those taking placebo.