

Viagra and Multiple Sclerosis

Erectile Dysfunction is a common problem for men with Multiple Sclerosis. New research indicates that Viagra (sildenafil) is an effective and well-tolerated treatment for erectile difficulties in such patients.

According to Dr. Clare J. Fowler, from The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, in London, "Viagra significantly improved erectile function and the ability to engage in satisfactory sexual activity in ED due to MS"

In the study, 217 relatively young men were randomly assigned to Viagra or placebo for 12 weeks. The study was funded by Pfizer, Inc., which markets the drug Viagra. Viagra was associated with a significant improvement in standard erection scores. 89 percent of Viagra-treated patients reported improved erections compared with just 24 percent of those given a placebo. The randomized phase of the study was followed by a 48-week extension phase in which 180 men were treated with Viagra. At the end of this phase, 95 percent of patients reported improved erections.

No serious drug-related side effects were seen and Viagra was well tolerated. Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a disorder of the central nervous system of unknown cause in which the body's immune system attacks myelin in the brain and spinal cord. The result is an impairment or loss of nerve function.

MS is the most common disabling neurological condition affecting young adults. Around 85,000 people in the UK have MS. It is most often diagnosed in people between the ages of 20 and 40, especially among those that are located in temperate climate regions. Women are more likely to have this illness.

MS FACTS

Multiple Sclerosis is the most common, progressive and a Disabling Neurological condition in young adults. It is five times more prevalent in temperate climates than in tropical ones.

Average age of clinical onset is 30 - 33 years of age, the average age of diagnosis is 37 years of age and the average time between clinical onset of MS and diagnosis by physicians is 4 - 5 years. 10% of cases are diagnosed after the age of fifty.

In 1936, only 8% of patients were reported to survive beyond 20 years after onset of illness, In 1961, over 80% of Multiple Sclerosis patients were reported surviving to 20 years after onset of illness and 2002 - A patient with Multiple Sclerosis can expect to live to average population life-expectancy minus seven years (mean life expectancy - 7 years).

Countries Most Affected by MS

- " Approx. 2.5 million people worldwide, have Multiple Sclerosis
- " Around 400,000 people in the United States have Multiple Sclerosis
- " Approx. 70,000 people in the UK have the disease
- " Approx. 50,000 people in Canada have Multiple Sclerosis
- " Over 10,500 people are affected from Multiple Sclerosis in Scotland; Scotland has

the highest incidence of Multiple Sclerosis per head of population in the world.

Symptoms of MS

There are many symptoms of multiple sclerosis that depend on the affected areas of the spinal cord and brain but the most common symptoms include:

- " Difficulty walking, extreme weakness, slow speech, blurred vision,
- " Nerve pain in the face,
- " Ringing in the ears or hearing problems,
- " Pins and needles or numbness in the legs, feet, arms or hands, muscle pain,
- " Loss of memory and difficulty concentrating,
- " Some men with MS find it difficult to get an erection, so a couple's sex life may also be affected,
- " Difficulty swallowing,
- " bladder and bowel problems such as inability to hold urine (incontinence) and constipation,

Symptoms can range from mild and occasional illness to severe and rapid deterioration. For most people with MS, the pain lies somewhere between the two extremes.

Diagnosis

Doctors usually diagnose the disease after studying the symptoms. It should be considered if a person complains of symptoms that show disorder of spinal cord or brain or both of them. These symptoms are most commonly found in people younger than 40 years. But this disease can occur in people of ages between 40 to 60 years. If a person complains of losing vision or blurring or doubling of vision, extreme weakness, change in walking pattern, loss of body coordination etc.

Reference:-

http://www.viagracures.com/articles/recreational_drug/viagra_and_multiple_Sclerosis.html