ABSTRACT

Objective: The work productivity and activity impairment measures of the Work Productivity and Activity Impairment questionnaire for irritable bowel syndrome (WPAI:IBS) have been shown to discriminate among patients with IBS symptoms and those without. The purpose of this investigation was to test the responsiveness of these measures to clinically meaningful changes in IBS symptom severity among IBS patients and responders with IBS symptom severity.

Methods: Female patients (18-65 years old) who met Rome II criteria for IBS, excluding those with frequent diarrhea, were assessed during a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter study of tegaserod 6 mg b.i.d. or placebo for 4 weeks. Absenteeism, presenteeism, overall work productivity loss, and activity impairment due to IBS symptoms during the previous 7 days were measured with the WPAI:IBS-C, which evaluates work productivity and activity impairment due to IBS symptoms during the previous 7 days. This was selected as the primary efficacy measure.

Results: A total of 2,054 women were randomized and of these 1,675 (p=0.003), responders were categorized as responders at Week 4 if they reported satisfactory relief of IBS symptom relief, and non-responders reported significant reductions in all measures except reduction in absenteeism. Only 1,363 in the tegaserod group and 312 in the placebo group were classified as responders at Week 4. When overall IBS symptom relief was considered, compared with placebo responders, although this difference was not statistically significant.

Conclusion: The WPAI:IBS-C work productivity and activity impairment measures are responsive to clinically meaningful change in IBS symptom severity and are useful tools for measuring outcomes in IBS patients.

REFERENCES