

Drug combination benefits patients with tophaceous gout

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The drug lesinurad in combination with febuxostat was better at lowering blood levels of urate than febuxostat alone in a phase III clinical trial of 324 patients with tophaceous gout. Over 12 months, significantly more patients in the combination group achieved target levels of urate than patients in the febuxostat group.

Gout occurs when urate crystals accumulate in the joints, causing inflammation and intense pain. In some people, large deposits of urate crystals (tophi) form. These deposits can cause chronic joint inflammation and damage. Current guidelines for long-term treatment of gout recommend urate-lowering therapy to maintain a blood urate level below 5.0 mg/dl in patients with tophaceous gout. The recommended first-line urate-lowering therapy is a xanthine oxidase inhibitor, either allopurinol or febuxostat, which inhibits urate production. Many patients are unable to achieve a urate level of

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