

SUMMARY

From 2001 to 2004 a retrospective non-invasive clinical trial on the effects of Piracetam was carried out in the nursing home in Česká Kamenice. The effect of Piracetam was observed on 150 patients aged 84,29 (± 3,5 years) who suffered from an advanced form of vascular dementia. The patients were diagnosed in accordance with all currently valid criteria. At the time of the clinical trial the patients had been suffering from the disease for more than 6 months. A placebo was administered to the reference group composed of patients suffering from the same disease. The clinical trial lasted for a period of 12 months .

The treatment with Piracetam did not demonstrate any positive effects which would be statistically substantial. This is probably due to an increased number of advanced forms of dementia syndrome with an irreversible loss of the brain's ability to compensate.

For the above mentioned reasons an early diagnosis of dementia is of high importance because of a possibility to positively influence the disease. We assume that it is a task of an immense significance which goes beyond the borders of the Czech Republic. Also, it raises the importance of geriatrics and gerontopharmacy on the societal ladder.

Obviously, it is necessary to conduct further and much more extensive studies, which would bring unequivocal results concerning the suitability of Piracetam administered to patients suffering from advanced forms of vascular dementia.