Special Issue

Edaravone for the Treatment of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

Message from the Guest Editor

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) is a fatal neurodegenerative disease. Most patients die within 3–5 years from onset. All ALS patients are desperate for new treatment. It took almost 20 years after riluzole approval in 1995 until edaravone was approved in Japan in 2015 and in US in 2017. Although the first phase 3 trial collecting a wide variety of ALS patients failed to show the efficacy of edaravone, the second phase 3 trial succeeded in proving its efficacy in inhibiting the deterioration of motor functions by approximately 33% compared to placebo. At present, edaravone is limited to intravenous administration. The oral formula of edaravone is under clinical trial for 12 months of safety assessment. In order to investigate more efficacious edaravone treatment options, a double-blind study is being launched to show the efficacy of everyday administration compared to current protocol with 10 days in 4 weeks administration. As free radical scavenging has been proven to be a key treatment strategy, further development of new therapeutic agents that target free radicals could lead to better outcomes for ALS treatment.

Guest Editor

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We hope to handle your contribution to *Pharmaceuticals* soon.

Editor-in-Chief

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