Efficacy and Safety of Ginkgo Biloba Special Extract EGb 761® in the Acute Treatment of Well-defined Diseases

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Due to its main mechanisms of action, such as a vasoregulating activity (increased blood flow) and a prevention of membrane damage caused by free radicals, oral treatment with the ginkgo biloba special extract EGb 761® has been shown to be effective in clinical trials with patients suffering from dementia, peripheral arterial occlusive disease, vertigo and tinnitus. Despite of its evident efficacy in some subgroups of these patients oral treatment cannot be applied, because the patients' acute symptoms require a more rapid onset of or another than oral form of treatment with EGb 761®.

Oral treatment with any agent active in dementia usually proves to be efficient not sooner than 3 to 6 months, whereas intravenously applied EGb 761® can show results within four weeks depending on the severity of symptoms. A rapid deterioration of symptoms, especially in vertigo or vascular dementia, that jeopardize the maintenance of every-day-abilities, demands an early and effective treatment. The necessity of an intravenous treatment with EGb 761® becomes particularly important when a patient's general conditions, e. g. dysphagy, sickness or alterations of consciousness render an oral treatment impossible due to practical considerations.

The advantageous effects of EGb 761® in diseases that are by themselves or with respect to their treatment dependent on a sufficient blood supply are not only prominent in vascular dementia and tinnitus/vertigo, but become also helpful in the supportive treatment of solid tumours. Tumour treatment often suffers from shortcomings related to a decreased blood flow, so that chemotherapeutic agents do not become available at the target point in a sufficient manner.

There are data from clinical trials that demonstrate a good benefit-risk-ratio of intravenously applied EGb 761® in well-defined subgroups of patients suffering from diseases related to a decrease of blood flow, such as certain types of dementia, tinnitus/vertigo and solid tumours.

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