

Doctor on Call



It's merely the nature of the job as a physician that most of the communications one receives from patients relate to problems they are having with the disorder you are treating or the treatment you prescribed.

It is truly refreshing to hear some good news for change. When one of our patients, an electronic subscriber to this magazine, recently contacted me on her initiative and courteously offered to give a "testimonial", I decided to use her words for this section.

She wrote:

Before starting [one of the anti-CGRP Mabs described earlier in this issue], I would not leave home without triptans for fear of having a migraine. I was having a migraine episode several times per week, and I missed school

and work countless times due to my migraines. Now that I use [the Mab], I only have a migraine once or twice per month, and they are less severe than before. I don't feel the need to bring my triptans with me everywhere I go. I feel an enormous sense of freedom from migraine pain that I have not felt since childhood, and I now am able to function at a much higher level.

"An enormous sense of freedom from migraine pain." As a fellow migraineur, I'm pleased when any patient experiences a significant reduction in headache burden paralleled by an improvement in the quality of life. As a clinical neuroscientist, it is difficult to express the pure pleasure of participating in years of research intended to produce a new therapy, to see that therapy

finally applied in general clinical practice and then to listen as patients like this one report the dramatic change the therapy has made in their day-to-day lives. Put simply, it is incredibly reinforcing, and it is for this that our research team at GW and clinical investigators everywhere make the effort we do to raise the existing standard of care. **W**

