

Pharmacological Therapies

In regard to the use of pharmacological therapies in the treatment of PPS, Dr Pesi Katrak has written the following:

Anecdotally, a number of pharmacological agents have been reported to show improvement in symptoms of post-polio syndrome. All of these are case reports on a small number of patients only. There are very few randomised, controlled trials in PPS patients. The largest study was a randomised, multi-centre trial on 126 PPS patients¹²³ on the use of pyridostigmine. This was a placebo-controlled trial, which failed to show that pyridostigmine¹²⁴ produced an improvement on measures of fatigue and strength. An earlier, open trial with pyridostigmine on a small number of patients had shown improvement in fatigue and strength in patients receiving this medication. Other randomised placebo-controlled trials using Amantadin¹²⁵ on 25 patients and Prednisone¹²⁶ on 17 patients did not show a significant improvement in fatigue or strength. Small case studies with two to five patients have been reported using Selegiline,¹²⁷ Bromocriptine¹²⁸ and human growth hormone.¹²⁹ It is not possible to draw any conclusions from these case reports. Overall, there is no evidence to indicate that any pharmacological agent improves the symptoms of weakness or fatigue in post-polio syndrome patients.