

## **Blocking CGRP will be safe, effective and clinically meaningful for patients with migraine and chronic migraine**

**C. Lampl**

*Headache Medical Center, Ordensklinikum Linz Barmherzige Schwestern, Austria*

The various investigational drugs that target CGRP or its receptor would represent the first "designer" drugs for migraine and chronic migraine prevention. The reported reduction in headache hours was statistically significant, further testing will be necessary to determine whether "that is meaningful" in terms of improved function and quality of life. Given that the frequency of migraines can wax and wane, at least some people in these initial trials may simply be getting better on their own. Safety is also a concern. Theoretically, if CGRP is completely blocked you could translate a minor stroke or cardiac ischemia into a full blown stroke or heart attack. So far, the companies say they haven't seen that or other significant side effects in the several thousand people who have completed phase I and II trials, but the drugs have only been administered for up to 6 months—not long enough to judge long-term effects. Furthermore, the site and mechanism of action of CGRP monoclonal antibodies is unclear.