



Associazione Neurologica Italiana
per la Ricerca sulle Cefalee

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ANIRCEF Endorsement for the Inclusion of Fremanezumab in the WHO Essential Medicines List

Dear EML Secretariat,

On behalf of The Italian Neurological Association for Headache Research (ANIRCEF), the leading Italian nonprofit scientific society of Italy dedicated to the research, diagnosis, and treatment of headache, bringing together neurologists and other healthcare professionals interested in migraine and other headache disorders, I am writing to express our strong support for the inclusion of the following medications in the WHO Essential Medicines List:

- A.13 Fremanezumab - High frequency and chronic migraine

Fremanezumab has demonstrated robust efficacy and an excellent safety and tolerability profile, not only in randomized controlled trials but also in real-world clinical settings, including complex and treatment-resistant patients with multiple prior therapeutic failures. This is extensively documented in the FRIEND, FRIEND2, and FRIEND3 trials endorsed by ANIRCEF, which highlight significant improvements from the initial doses. These include:

- A marked reduction in migraine frequency, severity and analgesic use
- A significant decrease in ictal and interictal disability
- A substantial enhancement in patients' quality of life, facilitating their reintegration into social, familial, and professional activities

Furthermore, emerging long-term data suggest fremanezumab's potential for disease-modifying effects, marking a paradigm shift in migraine management.



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Given these findings, we firmly believe that fremanezumab represents a major breakthrough in migraine prevention, establishing a true "point of no return" in the treatment of this highly disabling disorder. Its inclusion in the WHO Essential Medicines List would be a crucial step in ensuring global access to effective migraine therapy. Our organization is committed to supporting this initiative and is available to provide any further information or assistance. We look forward to the positive impact this development will have on the global health landscape.

Best Regards,

Gerardo Casucci, MD

President of the Italian Neurological Association for Headache Research
(ANIRCEF)

Naples, April 14th

Key References:

1. Fremanezumab in the prevention of high-frequency episodic and chronic migraine: a 12-week, multicenter, real-life, cohort study (FRIEND1) – Barbanti P, Egeo G, Aurilia C, et al. J Headache Pain. 2022; 23(1):46. [DOI: 10.1186/s10194-022-01396-x]
2. Early and sustained efficacy of fremanezumab over 24 weeks in migraine patients with multiple preventive treatment failures (FRIEND2) – Barbanti P, Egeo G, Aurilia C, et al. J Headache Pain. 2023; 24(1):30. [DOI: 10.1186/s10194-023-01561-w]
3. Assessing the long-term (48-week) effectiveness, safety, and tolerability of fremanezumab in real life (FRIEND3) – Barbanti P, Egeo G, Proietti S, et al. Neurol Ther. 2024; 13(3):611-624. [DOI: 10.1007/s40120-024-00591-z]