

## Orodispersible film formulation of Riluzole in ALS: Improving Adherence, Tolerability and Treatment Experience

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### Objective

The aim of this study is to evaluate the benefits of an orodispersible film formulation of Riluzole in patients with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

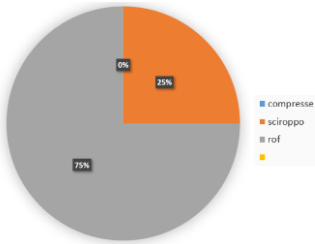
### Materials and Methods

A questionnaire regarding the use of the orodispersible formulation of Riluzole was administered to 12 ALS patients attending the Day Hospital for Neuromuscular Diseases of the Neurology Department of the Hospital of Salerno. The questionnaire consisted of 12 questions related to the administration method, therapy adherence, potential formulation changes, side effects and perceived benefits. A literature search was performed using the PubMed and Scopus databases, with the keywords "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis", "Riluzole" and "Oromucosal Formulation".

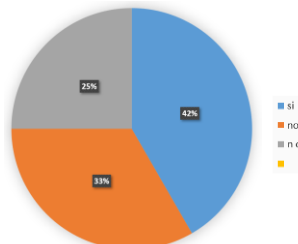
### Results

Statistical analysis revealed that 75% of the patients used the orodispersible formulation, with 75% of them having previously used a different formulation (25% tablets and 50% syrup). Among those who switched formulations, 79% reported a benefit with 59% citing a more pleasant formulation and 20% reporting fewer side effects. Furthermore, 42% demonstrated improved adherence to therapy and only 17% experienced side effects (8% with gastrointestinal symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, abdominal pain and 9% with other symptoms like skin rashes).

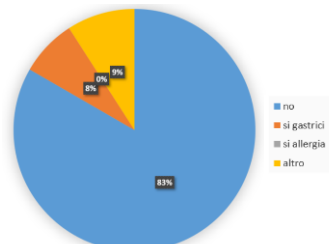
### RILUZOLE FORMULATIONS



### ADHERENCE TO THERAPY



### SIDE EFFECTS



### Discussion

Riluzole is the only drug currently shown to slow ALS progression. However, more than 80% of ALS patients develop dysphagia, making oral administration of riluzole tablets unfeasible. This swallowing difficulty can lead to poor patient compliance and premature discontinuation of life-extending treatment. The orodispersible formulation of Riluzole was approved in Italy on March 21, 2024, with the aim of improving adherence, especially in dysphagic patients. To date, no randomized controlled trials (RCTs) directly comparing the orodispersible film with other formulations have been published. The findings from the interviews align with observational studies based on patient responses and laboratory data on active absorption.

### Conclusions

The orodispersible formulation of Riluzole ensures complete absorption, enhances therapeutic adherence and improves patient autonomy and comfort. Riluzole remains the only approved disease-modifying treatment for ALS, with modest but documented efficacy, although no RCTs have been published specifically for the orodispersible film formulation.

### Bibliography

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