Lamotrigine and lithium are effective maintenance treatments in recently depressed people with bipolar I disorder


What are the effects of lamotrigine and lithium for maintenance treatment in recently depressed people with bipolar I disorder?

NOTE

There were initially three lamotrigine treatment groups; enrolment was stopped in the 50mg/day and 400 mg/day groups during the study because of poor enrolment. Efficacy data for lamotrigine was pooled for the 200 mg and 400 mg/day groups, a decision that had been made a priori. Authors point out that participants who were intolerant or unresponsive to lamotrigine would have been excluded during the prerandomisation stabilisation period, and this may have biased results.

Table

Common adverse events occurring during treatment, n (%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adverse event</th>
<th>Lamotrigine (n = 169)</th>
<th>Lithium (n = 120)</th>
<th>Placebo (n = 121)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>30 (18)</td>
<td>23 (19)</td>
<td>25 (21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nausea</td>
<td>28 (17)</td>
<td>24 (20)</td>
<td>15 (12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tremor</td>
<td>9 (5)*</td>
<td>20 (17)†</td>
<td>6 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rash</td>
<td>12 (7)†</td>
<td>5 (4)</td>
<td>3 (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dizziness</td>
<td>21 (12)</td>
<td>13 (11)</td>
<td>12 (10)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*p<0.05 versus lithium.
†p<0.05 versus placebo.

FOR CORRESPONDENCE: J Calabrese, University Hospitals of Cleveland/Case Western Reserve School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry, Cleveland, Ohio, USA; jcr8@case.edu

Sources of funding: GlaxoSmithKline, Abbott Laboratories, Bristol-Myers Squibb, GlaxoWellcome, Janssen, Lilly Research, the National Institute of Mental Health, Parke-Davis, R.W. Johnson Pharmaceutical Institute, Smith Kline Beecham, the Stanley Foundation, Eli Lilly, Salva, Novartis, Sanofi, AstraZeneca, and Pfizer.

www.ebmentalhealth.com
Lamotrigine and lithium are effective maintenance treatments in recently depressed people with bipolar I disorder

_Evid Based Mental Health_ 2004 7: 48
doi: 10.1136/ebmh.7.2.48

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://ebmh.bmj.com/content/7/2/48

These include:

**References**
This article cites 1 articles, 0 of which you can access for free at:
http://ebmh.bmj.com/content/7/2/48#BIBL

**Email alerting service**
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

**Topic Collections**
Articles on similar topics can be found in the following collections

- Drugs: psychiatry (344)
- Depressive disorder (570)
- Bipolar disorder (236)
- Clinical trials (epidemiology) (991)
- Epidemiology (1570)
- Neurology (1070)

**Notes**

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/