Adding mixed amphetamine salts to divalproex sodium improves ADHD symptoms in children with bipolar disorder and comorbid ADHD


Q Are mixed amphetamine salts plus divalproex sodium safe and effective in children with bipolar disorder and comorbid ADHD after stabilisation of manic symptoms with divalproex sodium?

CONCLUSIONS

Mixed amphetamine salts plus divalproex sodium are safe and effective for the short term treatment of bipolar disorder and comorbid ADHD.

NOTES

Although there was no washout period between treatments, the authors found no statistical evidence for carry over effects. Children previously unresponsive to divalproex sodium were excluded so results may not apply to an unselected population. It is not clear whether the participants’ characteristics were balanced at baseline.

MAIN RESULTS

Adding mixed amphetamine salts to divalproex sodium improved ADHD symptoms but not manic symptoms at two weeks compared with adding placebo (mean CGI improvement score: 1.8 with mixed amphetamine salts v 3.7 with placebo, \( p < 0.0001 \); mean YMRS score: 5.9 with mixed amphetamine salts v 7.1 with placebo, \( p = 0.17 \)). Side effects were transient and of low to moderate severity and frequency. During open label follow up one of 23 participants had a worsening of manic symptoms, which resolved on discontinuation of mixed amphetamine salts.

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