

P-1074 - EFFICACY OF VENLAFAXINE COMPARED WITH SELECTIVE SEROTONIN REUPTAKE INHIBITORS (SSRI) IN SEVERE MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDER (MDD): A RETROSPECTIVE POOLED ANALYSIS

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Introduction/objective: There are no data on the comparative efficacy of venlafaxine to other SSRI's in severe MDD.

Methods: In a post hoc analysis, data were pooled from 8 double-blind active controlled studies in outpatients with a diagnosis of MDD. Patients randomly assigned to venlafaxine (dose range 75-225mg) or SSRI (fluoxetine (20-80 mg/day), fluvoxamine (100 mg/day), or paroxetine (20 mg/day)) were included in the analysis. Severe MDD was defined as baseline HAM-D₁₇ >24 and alternatively as baseline MADRS ≥ 31. Treatment groups were compared by mean improvement in the 17-item Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAM-D₁₇) (and alternatively MADRS) scores from baseline to last observation carried forward (LOCF). Secondary outcomes included HAM-D₁₇ response (≥50% reduction in HAM-D₁₇) and remission (HAM-D₁₇ ≤7) rates, MADRS response (≥50% reduction in MADRS) and remission (MADRS ≤10). Changes from baseline for the primary end point were evaluated using analysis of covariance with treatment, study, and baseline in the model.

Results: A total of 1503 patients were included in the analysis (venlafaxine n=805; SSRI, n=698); 649/1503 (43%) patients had severe depression (HAM-D₁₇ >24) at baseline. Venlafaxine improved HAM-D₁₇ scores vs. SSRI in patients with severe MDD (venlafaxine, -15.26 [0.73]; SSRI, -12.91 [0.81]; P=0.003). Response and remission were significantly higher in venlafaxine compared with SSRI (Response: Venlafaxine = 63% vs SSRI= 53% (p=0.004); Remission: 41% vs. 31% (p=0.005)). The results of the analyses were similar when baseline severity was defined by MADRS scores.

Conclusions: In this retrospective pooled analysis, venlafaxine was superior to SSRI's in treating severe MDD.