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AUGMENTATION OF ZONISAMIDE IN POOR OR NON-RESPONDER PATIENTS TREATED WITH DULOXETINE FOR SINGLE OR RECURRENT UNIPOLAR MAJOR DEPRESSIVE EPISODE

M. Fornaro, F. Bandini, C. Mattei, F. Battaglia, C. Ogliastro, **P. Fornaro**

Università di Genova, Genova, Italy

Objectives: The aim of our ongoing study is to investigate the effectiveness of Zonisamide augmentation to Duloxetine in partial and non-responder patients in course of Unipolar Major Depressive Episode.
Method: 35 outpatients will be enrolled in a 12-weeks open-label study including both genders, 18 to 65 years old subjects. Unipolar Major Depressive Episode diagnosis will be performed at screening time using “Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV-Axis-I Disorders- Italian 1996 version” (SCID-I, First et al., 1996) and by a ≥14 total score for the “Quick Inventory of Depressive Symptomathology-Self Rated” (QIDS-SR, Rush et al., 2003). Patients will be repeatedly evaluated during the course of the study using a wide range of mood and anxiety rating scales and monitoring biomarkers such as electroretinogram b-wave amplitude, interleukins, flogosis and BDNF factors etc. At week 6, Duloxetine partial/non responders will be augmetated to Zonisamide and further evaluations of mentioned markers will be repeated. A “Fisher-test” or χ^2 analysis will be performed at the end of the study. Expected p will be ≤ 0,005.
Hypothesis: We expect Zonisamide augmentation to be an effective treatment for SNRI-resistant Major Depression.

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