

## P01-23

### OXCARBAZEPINE VS. TOPIRAMATE IN ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE

**G. Martinotti**, M. Di Nicola, D. Tedeschi, O. De Vita, L. Guerriero, R. Guglielmo, M. Mazza, G. Pozzi, L. Janiri

*Department of Psychiatry, Catholic University Medical School, Rome, Italy*

**Introduction:** Aim of this randomised, parallel, placebo-controlled group trial was to compare oxcarbazepine and topiramate with placebo on alcohol drinking indices. Craving and psychiatric symptomatology have also been investigated.

**Methods:** This randomised, parallel, placebo-controlled psychopharmacology trial studied 60 patients, consecutively recruited, meeting clinical criteria for Alcohol Dependence (DSM-IV). After detoxification, subjects were assigned to flexible doses of oxcarbazepine (n=20), or topiramate (n=20) or placebo (n=20). Withdrawal symptomatology was determined by the Clinical Institute Withdrawal Assessment for Alcohol (CIWA-Ar) and the level of craving for alcohol was evaluated by a 10-cm Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) and the Italian version of the Obsessive and Compulsive Drinking Scale (OCDS). Psychiatric symptoms were evaluated with the Symptom Check List 90 Revised (SCL-90 R).

**Results:** Non-benzodiazepine anticonvulsants have been shown to be efficacious treatments for the prevention of alcohol relapse although the FDA has yet approved none of these agents. During the congress the main results of this study will be presented.

**Conclusions:** To our knowledge, this is the first randomised, parallel, placebo-controlled group study to evaluate the efficacy of oxcarbazepine and topiramate compared in alcohol dependent patients. The data of this pilot clinical study suggest and investigate a possible role for the anticonvulsants agents in the treatment of alcohol dependent patients.