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Effects of Lurasidone On Hostility in Patients with an Acute Exacerbation of Schizophrenia: a Pooled Post HOC Analysis of 5 Short-term Studies

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Introduction: Lurasidone has demonstrated efficacy in the treatment of schizophrenia.

Objective: To evaluate the effect of lurasidone on hostility in patients with an acute exacerbation of schizophrenia.

Aims: To assess the efficacy of lurasidone for reducing hostility.

Methods: Data were pooled from 5 double-blind, placebo-controlled, 6-week studies of lurasidone (40-160 mg/d) in patients with evidence of hostility at study baseline (Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale [PANSS] hostility item score ≥ 2). Lurasidone was compared with placebo using mixed-model repeated-measures analysis, with and without adjustment for positive symptoms of schizophrenia and somnolence as covariates.

Results: A total of 1148 patients met criteria for hostility at baseline (lurasidone, $n=775$; placebo, $n=373$). Lurasidone was significantly superior to placebo in reducing the PANSS hostility item score from Week 1 ($P=0.002$) through Week 6 ($P<0.001$). After adjusting for change in positive symptoms, lurasidone significantly decreased hostility compared with placebo from Week 2 ($P=0.014$) through Week 6 ($P<0.05$). After adjusting for the presence of somnolence, lurasidone significantly reduced hostility relative to placebo beginning at Week 2 and every assessment thereafter ($P<0.05$), except for Week 6. Overall, 63.1% of lurasidone-treated patients demonstrated any improvement (≥ 1 point change) on the PANSS hostility item at study endpoint compared with 55.0% of patients taking placebo (number needed to treat=13; 95% confidence interval, 8-49).

Conclusions: Lurasidone showed a specific antihostility effect in this post hoc analysis; improvement in hostility was significantly greater with lurasidone than placebo and was independent of change in other positive symptoms or somnolence.

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