

Results Sexual dysfunction is observed in 5 patients (3.7%) at 50 and 100 mg/d (2 and 3 patients, respectively) desvenlafaxine doses. Two patients (1.5%) have experimented more than one sexual side effect. Regarding gender differences, the most frequent sexual dysfunctions are diminished sexual desire (5.5%) and erectile dysfunction (5.5%) in men and orgasmic dysfunction (1.2%) in women (*P*-values are 0.034; 0.034 and 0.408, respectively). Discontinuation is decided in 60% of patients.

Conclusions Desvenlafaxine has a well-tolerated sexual side effect profile in general population. There are some gender-related differences both in presentation and perception, as it has been described with other drugs, and this should be taken into account by prescribers.

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EW445

The novel antipsychotic cariprazine (RGH-188): State-of-the-art in the treatment of psychiatric disorders

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Introduction Cariprazine (RGH-188) is a novel antipsychotic drug that exerts partial agonism of dopamine D₂/D₃ receptors with preferential binding to D₃ receptor, antagonism of 5HT_{2B} receptors and partial agonism of 5HT_{1A}. Currently, cariprazine is in late-stage clinical development (phase III clinical trials) in patients with schizophrenia (S) and in patients with bipolar disorder (BD), as well as an adjunctive treatment in patients with Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) and drug-resistant MDD.

Objectives Cariprazine has completed phase III trials for the acute treatment of schizophrenia and bipolar mania, phase II trials for the bipolar depression and MDD whilst it is undergoing phase III trials as an adjunct to antidepressants.

Aims The present review aims at proving a comprehensive summary of the current evidence on the safety, tolerability and efficacy of cariprazine in the treatment of schizophrenia, BD (manic/mixed/depressive episode) and MDD.

Methods A systematic search was conducted on PubMed/Medline/Scopus and the database on Clinical Trials from inception until April 2015 by typing a set of specified keywords.

Results Available evidence seems to support cariprazine efficacy in the treatment of cognitive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia. Preliminary findings suggest its antimanic activity whilst it is still under investigation its efficacy in the treatment of bipolar depression and MDD. Furthermore, the available data seems not to allow judgements about its antipsychotic potential in comparison with currently prescribed antipsychotics.

Conclusions Further studies should be carried out to better investigate its pharmacodynamic and clinical potential, particularly as alternative to current antipsychotic drugs.

Disclosure of interest The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

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Use of inhaled loxapine in acute psychiatric agitation

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Objectives The aim of this work is to study the efficacy of loxapine inhalation powder on agitated patients in a psychiatric inpatient unit.

Methods Nineteen patients sample, with an average age of 39.4 years old, diagnosed with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder or schizoaffective disorder. Patients inhaled loxapine 10 mg, using the staccato system, when they suffered a psychomotor agitation. The clinical efficacy was measured as a change from baseline in the Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale-Excited Component (PANSS-EC) and in the Young Mania Rating Scale (YMRS) one hour after the administration of loxapine.

Results A mean of 9.8 points reduction (22.6 at baseline and 12.7 one hour after the administration) was found on the PANSS-EC (*t*-test, *P* < .001) and 68.4% of the patients were considered responders as they obtained a reduction of at least 40% of the basal score. On 10 of the total of the agitated patients showed an improvement of the psychomotor excitement, and this allowed the clinicians to remove the physical restraint; on 6 of the agitated patients the physical restraint could be avoided during the whole treatment; and 3 of the patients experienced a reduction of the excitement. The reduction on PANSS-EC on the latest group was not statistically significant (*t*-test, *P* = .121).

Conclusions Inhaled loxapine was a non-invasive, rapid and effective alternative treatment for acute agitation in a psychiatric inpatient unit. It resulted more effective on mild and moderate cases; not been significantly effective on the severe cases of agitation.

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Which antidepressants are associated with increased risk of developing mania? A retrospective electronic case register cohort study

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Introduction The symptoms of bipolar disorder are sometimes misrecognised for unipolar depression and inappropriately treated with antidepressants. This may be associated with increased risk of