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Pharmacological treatment of depression

Submission date	Recruitment status	[ ] Prospectively registered
28/04/2006	No longer recruiting	[ ] Protocol
Registration date	**Overall study status**	[ ] Statistical analysis plan
28/04/2006	Completed	[X] Results
Last Edited	**Condition category**	[ ] Individual participant data
26/03/2018	Mental and Behavioural Disorders	

Plain English summary of protocol
Not provided at time of registration

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
N/A

Study information

Scientific Title
Pharmacological treatment of depression

Acronym
Venla study

Study objectives
1. Imipramine and Venlafaxine are comparable in efficacy in inpatients with a major depression
2. Imipramine and Venlafaxine are comparable in tolerability
3. Patients with a Venlafaxine plasma level <195 µg/l show comparable antidepressant efficacy as patients with a Venlafaxine plasma level >195 µg/l
4. Imipramine and Venlafaxine are comparable in efficacy during 4 months follow-up
5. Imipramine and Venlafaxine are comparable in tolerability during 4 months follow-up

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Ethics approval received from the local medical ethics committee

Study design
Double-blind randomized single-centre study with a washout period comparing 2 treatment strategies

Primary study design
Interventional

Study type(s)
Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Depression

Interventions
1. Venlafaxine (maximum dose 375 mg)
2. Imipramine (dose adjustment to adequate plasma levels of 200-300 µg/l)

Intervention Type
Drug

Phase
Not Applicable

Drug/device/biological/vaccine name(s)
Imipramine, Venlafaxine

Primary outcome(s)
Change in HRSD scores.

Key secondary outcome(s))
1. Change in CGI scores
2. Response defined as >50% reduction on HRSD compared to baseline
3. Remission defined as an end score of <7 on the HRSD

Completion date
01/01/2008

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
For inclusion in the trial, patients must fulfill all of the following criteria:
1. Age 18-65
2. Major depressive disorder, single or recurrent episode (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition [DSM-IV])
3. Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HRSD) (17 item) >/= 14
4. Written informed consent

Participant type(s)
Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Adult

Lower age limit
18 years

Upper age limit
65 years

Sex
All

Key exclusion criteria
Any of the following is regarded as a criterion for exclusion from the trial:
1. Patients who are incapable of understanding the information and of giving informed consent. Also, patients who are unable to read or write
2. Major depression with psychotic features (separate study)
3. Bipolar I or II disorder
4. Schizophrenia or other primary psychotic disorder
5. Treatment of current episode with adequate trial of Imipramine or Venlafaxine
6. Drug/alcohol dependence in the last 3 months
7. Mental retardation (IQ <80)
8. Women: pregnancy or possibility for pregnancy and no adequate contraceptive measures. Breastfeeding.
9. Serious medical illness affecting central nervous system (CNS) e.g. M. Parkinson, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), brain tumor, cerebrovascular accident (CVA)
10. Relevant medical illness as contra-indications for the use of study medication (Venlafaxine and Imipramine), such as recent myocardial infarction and severe liver or kidney failure
11. Medication affecting CNS e.g. antidepressants and/or antipsychotics other than study medication, steroids (prednison), mood stabilisers, benzodiazepines (if not being tapered): >3 mg lorazepam (or equivalent)
12. Direct electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) indication (e.g. very severely suicidal or refusal of food and drinking resulting in life threatening situation)
13. Contra-indications for Lithium (Moleman, 1998):

13.1. Kidney failure
13.2. Acute myocardial infarction
13.3. Myasthenia gravis
13.4. Breastfeeding

Date of first enrolment
01/06/2004

Date of final enrolment
01/01/2008

Locations

Countries of recruitment
Netherlands

Study participating centre
Erasmus Medical Center
Rotterdam
Netherlands
3000 CA

Sponsor information

Organisation
Erasmus Medical Center (The Netherlands)

ROR
https://ror.org/018906e22

Funder(s)

Funder type
Industry

Funder Name
Wyeth

Alternative Name(s)

Funding Body Type
Private sector organisation

Funding Body Subtype
For-profit companies (industry)

Location
United States of America

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary
Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	01/07/2017		Yes	No
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes