

Background: Bipolar Disorder (BD) is associated with impairment in emotional self-regulation and verbal working memory. Lamotrigine (LTG) is effective in the clinical management of BD.

Objective: To investigate whether treatment with LTG is coupled with altered function within neural circuits subserving emotional processing and verbal working memory, in a BDI sample.

Method: Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) was used to explore blood oxygenation level-dependent (BOLD) response across the whole brain in 12 stable BDI patients at baseline and following 12 weeks of LGT monotherapy. Stimuli were presented in a block-design while individuals performed a verbal working memory (N-back sequential letter) task and in an event-related fashion during an angry facial affect recognition task. Data was acquired using a 1.5-Tesla MRI scanner and analysed using SPM2. Group activation maps were generated for each task and for the drug-free and post-medication condition. A threshold of $p < 0.001$ was used. Effect of LGT on brain activation during tasks was explored using a random-effects, within-group comparison.

Results: In both tasks, LGT monotherapy was associated with increased BOLD signal when compared to baseline in a number of brain regions, mostly within the prefrontal cortex and cingulate gyrus. All foci of increased activation with LTG monotherapy were observed within cortical regions normally engaged in verbal working memory and facial affect processing.

Conclusions: LTG monotherapy in BD patients may enhance cortical function within neural circuits involved in memory and emotional self-regulation.

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Transition from immediate-release methylphenidate (ir-mph) to extended-release methylphenidate (OROS[®]-MPH) improves quality of life of patients with adhd -a naturalistic study

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Objectives: To investigate the effectiveness, tolerability, functionality and quality of life (QoL) under naturalistic conditions of once daily extended release methylphenidate (OROS[®]-MPH) in children and adolescents with attention-deficit/hyperactivity-disorder (ADHD), who had previously been treated with IR-MPH.

Methods: Interim analysis of an open-label, prospective, multicenter observational study (42603-ATT-4001) in children and adolescents aged 6-18 years with ADHD (DSM-VI). After transition patients were treated with OROS[®]-MPH (CONCERTA[®]) in flexible doses for 3 months. Primary documentation parameters were change in IOWA Conners' parent rating scale, C-GAS, and inventory for the assessment of quality of life (ILK). Statistical analyses based on ITT population (LOCF, Wilcoxon-test for dependent samples).

Results: Data from 296 patients (mean age 10.4±2.5 years; 85% male) were documented. There was a marked reduction in symptomatology from 29±11 to 19±11 points at endpoint on the IOWA Connor's parents rating scale ($p < 0.0001$). QoL significantly improved from 17±4 to 20±4 points on the ILK parent rating scale ($p < 0.0001$). Functionality showed a significant improvement of 12±14 points in C-GAS ($p < 0.0001$). 19.3% of the patients had at least one adverse event (AE). In 2 patients serious AE were

documented and were rated as unrelated to OROS[®]-MPH. Most frequent AEs were insomnia (5.7%) and nervousness (2.7%). Tolerability after transition to OROS[®]-MPH was rated as "good" or "very good" by 85% of the parents.

Conclusion: In this naturalistic study the transition to OROS[®]-MPH led to a significant improvement in clinical symptomatology, functionality and quality of life in patients with ADHD. OROS[®]-MPH showed to be safe and well tolerated.

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Teenagers suicidal behavior and psychosocial factors

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Objective: Suicidal behavior becomes more and more actual problem in many countries. Lithuania is known as a country where suicides rate, especially among young people, is the highest in Europe.

The goal of this research was to establish the coherence between family, psychosocial characteristics and teenagers' suicide behavior.

Methods: Two groups of teenagers from 14 to 17 were researched: the analyzed group (N=109) and the control group (N=218). To evaluate anamnesis, psychosocial factors of the researched teenagers, structural questionnaire, concluded by the authors was presented.

Seeking to establish the coherence between psychosocial factors and suicide behavior, the comparisons were made between the frequencies of this factor among 14 – 17 year old teenagers, having no suicide anamnesis and the teenagers who have tried to commit a suicide.

Results: The data analysis proved the statistically reliable evidence that in analyzed group both male and female teenagers, who have tried to commit a suicide, live in not full families ($p < 0.001$). The frequent behavior in such families is addiction of both or one of the parents to alcohol ($p < 0.001$); physical punishment is not an exception ($p < 0.001$). The teenagers who have tried to commit a suicide indicated that they more often than the teenagers in the control group fell badly or even very badly among their contemporaries ($p < 0.001$) and most of their time they spend alone ($p < 0.001$).

Conclusions: According to the results, the psychosocial factors and teenagers suicidal behavior are related, but only they themselves can't predetermine the suicide.

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Executive function in chinese children with bipolar disorder

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Background and aims: Impaired executive function has been proposed as a trait marker for adult bipolar disorder. However, similar impairments in children bipolar disorder have not been yet documented. Here, we assessed executive function in 21 children and adolescents with bipolar disorder.

Methods: 21 children and adolescents with bipolar disorder and 21 demographically matched healthy participants completed a standardized WCST test.