PHARMACOTHERAPIES

[Abstract:0160] Pharmacotherapies

Effect of venlafaxine on sexual function in major depression: a six-month open label study

Alper Evrensel¹, Adnan Cansever², Ufuk Hamurcu³

¹Department of Electroneurophysiology, Uskudar University, Istanbul-Turkey
²Clinic, Ankara-Turkey
³Department of Psychiatry, Ankara Training and Research Hospital, Ankara-Turkey
⁴Department of Psychiatry, GATA Haydarpasa Training Hospital, Istanbul-Turkey

Objective: Antidepressant drugs may lead to sexual dysfunction. It was aimed to research the effect of a 6-month intake of venlafaxine on sexual function during the treatment of patients with major depressive disorder.

Methods: Forty-eight major depressive disorder cases who had been admitted to the psychiatry clinic consecutively were included in the study. The clinical scales were applied in the first month, second month and sixth month of the treatment before the venlafaxine treatment. The study was completed with 36 cases.

Results: Sexual dysfunction was identified in 58.3% (21/36) of the patients taking venlafaxine at the beginning. A significant difference could not be found between the scores of Arizona Sexual Experiences Scale comparing the beginning and the first month, and the beginning and sixth month (p<0.231 and p<0.622, respectively). The decline differences observed in the scores of Arizona Sexual Experiences Scale between the beginning and second month and second month and sixth month were found statistically significant (p<0.006 and p<0.003, respectively). All patients went into remission at the end of the 6-month treatment.

Discussion: The high rates of sexual dysfunction before the venlafaxine treatment were significantly decreased in the second month of the treatment. The depression remitted after a 6-month treatment but the rate of sexual dysfunction increased to pre-treatment levels. The results of this research show that sexual dysfunction lasts during the venlafaxine treatment and gets very close to the initial rate at the end of six months.

Keywords: venlafaxine, serotonin-noradrenaline reuptake inhibitor, sexual dysfunction

[Abstract:0161] Pharmacotherapies

Impacts of a six-month venlafaxine intake on serum prolactin levels in patients with major depressive disorder

Alper Evrensel¹, Adnan Cansever², Ufuk Hamurcu³, Murat Oncu⁴

¹Department of Electroneurophysiology, Uskudar University, Istanbul-Turkey
²Clinic, Ankara-Turkey
³Department of Psychiatry, Ankara Training and Research Hospital, Ankara-Turkey
⁴Department of Psychiatry, GATA Haydarpasa Training Hospital, Istanbul-Turkey

Objective: Antidepressants may increase serum prolactin levels. The purpose of the study is to explore the effects of six months of venlafaxine intake on the serum prolactin level of patients with major depressive disorders.

Methods: Seventy-eight patients with major depressive disorders, who had applied to the psychiatry clinics consecutively, participated in the study. Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I Disorders and the Hamilton Depression Rating Scale were administered to all participants. Levels of serum prolactin, FT3, FT4 and TSH of each participant were measured before the venlafaxine treatment. After one month and sixth month of the venlafaxine treatment, levels were remeasured. The study was completed with sixty-five cases.

Results: There is no significant difference between serum prolactin levels measured at the beginning and in the first month of the treatment. Serum prolactin level measured at the beginning of the treatment had increased significantly by the sixth month of the treatment. Serum prolactin levels measured in the first month of the treatment had increased significantly by the sixth month of the treatment. Galactorrhea did not occur in any cases.