



Effective Health Care Anticonvulsants for the Treatment of Bipolar Disorder Nomination Summary Document

Results of Topic Selection Process & Next Steps

- Anticonvulsants for the treatment of bipolar disorder was found to be addressed by a systematic review from the Drug Effectiveness Review Project (DERP) titled *Antiepileptic Drugs for Indications Other Than Epilepsy* as well as practice guidelines from the World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, and the American Psychological Association. Given that the existing guidelines and report cover this nomination, no further activity will be undertaken on this topic.
 - McDonagh M, Peterson K, Lee N, et al. Drug Class Review: Antiepileptic Drugs for Indications Other Than Epilepsy: Final Report Update 2. Portland OR: Oregon Health & Science University; 2008 Oct. Available from: http://derp.ohsu.edu/final/AED_%20final_report_update%202.pdf
 - Grunze H, Vieta E, Goodwin GM, et al. The World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry (WFSBP) guidelines for the biological treatment of bipolar disorders: update 2010 on the treatment of acute bipolar depression. *World J Biological Psychiatr* 2010;11:81-109. Available from: http://www.wfsbp.org/fileadmin/pdf/guides/WFSBP_Guidelines_Update_2010_Acute_Bipolar_Depression.pdf
 - Management of Bipolar Disorder Working Group. Va/DOD Clinical Practice Guidelines for Management of Bipolar Disorder in Adults: Guideline Summary. 2010 May. Available from: http://www.healthquality.va.gov/bipolar/bd_305_full.pdf
 - National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. Clinical Guideline 38: The management of bipolar disorder in adults, children and adolescents in primary and secondary care. 2006. Available from: <http://www.nice.org.uk/nicemedia/live/10990/30194/30194.pdf>
 - Hirschfeld RMA, Bowden CL, Gitlin JM, Keck PE, Suppes T, Thase ME, Wagner KD, Perlis RH. Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Patients with Bipolar Disorder. Second edition. APA Practice Guidelines, 2002. Available from: http://www.psychiatryonline.com/pracGuide/pracGuideTopic_8.aspx

Topic Description

Nominator: Individual

Nomination Summary: The nominator requested information on the comparative effectiveness and harms of the different courses of treatment available for bipolar disorder. In particular, they are interested in the comparison of anticonvulsant agents versus any other pharmacological treatment for this condition.

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Population(s): Adults, defined as 18 years of age or older, diagnosed with bipolar I or bipolar II disorder.

Intervention(s): Any anticonvulsant drug (administered via any route, at any dosage) prescribed for the treatment of bipolar disorder.

Comparator(s): Any other pharmacological treatment (administered via any route, at any dosage) prescribed for the treatment of bipolar disorder (including lithium, antipsychotics [typical or atypical], antidepressants, or benzodiazepines).

Outcome(s): 1) Improvement in symptoms of manic, mixed, or depressive episodes.
2) The occurrence of adverse effects, specifically Stevens Johnson Syndrome.

- Key Questions from Nominator:**
1. For adult patients with bipolar disorder, what courses of treatment are available?
 2. Concurrently, which treatments provide statistically better treatment results?

Considerations

- The topic meets EHC Program appropriateness and importance criteria. (For more information, see <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/index.cfm/submit-a-suggestion-for-research/how-are-research-topics-chosen/>.)
- Topic was found to be addressed by practice guidelines from the World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), and the American Psychological Association (APA).
 - The recommendations for the treatment of bipolar disorder with anticonvulsant medications appear consistent across existing practice guidelines. Furthermore, at least two of the above (NICE, APA) are planning or are in the process of updating their current treatment guidelines.
- In addition, a systematic review by the Drug Effectiveness Review Project (DERP) titled *Antiepileptic Drugs for Indications Other Than Epilepsy* has significant overlap with this topic. Relevant key questions from this review include:
 - For adult outpatients with bipolar disorder, fibromyalgia, migraine, or chronic pain, do antiepileptic drugs differ in effectiveness?
 - For adult outpatients with bipolar disorder, fibromyalgia, migraine, or chronic pain, do antiepileptic drugs differ in safety or adverse events?
 - Among these patient populations, are there subgroups of patients based on demographics (age, racial groups, and gender), other medications, or comorbidities for which one antiepileptic drug is more effective or associated with fewer adverse events?