

MEETING ABSTRACT

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Treatment of psychotic symptoms in bipolar disorder with aripiprazole monotherapy: a meta-analysis

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Background

The current article is a systematic registration and meta-analysis of the available clinical trials concerning the usefulness of aripiprazole in the treatment of the psychotic symptoms in bipolar disorder.

Materials and methods

A systematic MEDLINE and repositories search concerning clinical trials for aripiprazole in bipolar disorder.

Results

The meta-analysis of 4 RCTs on acute mania suggests that the effect size of aripiprazole vs. placebo was equal to 0.14 but a more reliable and accurate estimation is 0.18 for the total PANSS score. The effect was higher for the PANSS positive subscale (0.28), PANSS hostility subscale (0.24) and PANSS cognitive subscale (0.20), and lower for the PANSS negative (0.12). No data on the depressive phase of bipolar illness exist, while there are some data in favour of aripiprazole concerning the maintenance phase, where at week 26 all except the total PANSS score showed a significant superiority of aripiprazole over placebo ($d = 0.28$ for positive, $d = 0.38$ for the cognitive and $d = 0.71$ for the hostility subscales) and at week 100 the results were similar ($d = 0.42$, 0.63 and 0.48 respectively).

Conclusions

The data analysed for the current study support the usefulness of aripiprazole against psychotic symptoms during the acute manic and maintenance phases of bipolar illness.

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