A Quasi-Experimental Trial in Comparison of Duloxetine and Methylphenidate in the Treatment of Children with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder

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Abstract:

Background: Comparison of efficacy and safety of duloxetine, a serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor, and methylphenidate, in the treatment of children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) in a quasi-experimental trial.

Method: Twenty four children aged 6-11 years old, diagnosed with ADHD participated in this 6 weeks clinical trial. Thirteen patients received duloxetine and others received methylphenidate. Conner’ Parent Rating Scale-Revised-short form (CPRS-R-S) and ADHD-Rating Scale were used to assess efficacy of treatment.

Results: Twenty patients completed the study (Ten in each group). In both groups, scales of CPRS and ADHD-RS were reduced from baseline to endpoint, but this reduction in methylphenidate group was significantly greater than duloxetine group. The most common side effect was gastrointestinal problems in duloxetine group and anorexia in methylphenidate group.

Conclusions: Duloxetine is not efficacious as well as methylphenidate in treatment of children with ADHD. So, it's need further investigations for definite results.