

**EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF THE ANTIDEPRESSANT VORTIOXETINE**

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**Introduction.** Vortioxetine is an antidepressant that was approved by the FDA for the treatment of major depressive disorder. The aim of the work was to assess the efficacy and safety of vortioxetine in patients with depression.

**Materials and methods.** The analysis of scientific publications on the effectiveness and tolerability of vortioxetine was conducted in the scientific systems MEDLINE, Google Scholar, and ScienceDirect.

**Results and discussion.** The most common adverse effects reported with vortioxetine in the studies were nausea, vomiting, and constipation. Nausea frequency was dose-dependent, reaching 32% when taking vortioxetine at a dose of 20 mg / day [1]. Nausea was practically the only reason for early discontinuation of vortioxetine treatment.

Other important side effects of vortioxetine therapy are hypertensive crisis and increased suicidal risk. Vortioxetine can increase the risk of suicidal thoughts and actions, so families of children and young people taking this medicine should monitor for any symptoms of worsening depression or suicidal thoughts. A case of acute vortioxetine poisoning with suicidal intent was registered [2].

The proportion of patients with sexual dysfunction was 1.7% in the Vortioxetine 5–10 mg group and 2.3% in the Vortioxetine 15–20 mg group [3].

Analysis of data from short-term studies showed that treatment with vortioxetine did not lead to any clinically significant changes in blood pressure and heart rate. At the same time, serotonergic transmission and modulation play a role in hemostasis. Therefore, it is recommended to use the drug with caution in patients with bleeding disorders.

Although vortioxetine (a relatively new serotonergic antidepressant) alone rarely causes serotonin syndrome, there is a risk of potential toxicity when used with other serotonergic agents or drugs that inhibit their metabolism.

Unfortunately, the diagnosis of vortioxetine overdose is complicated by limited data on the methods of its laboratory detection. Therefore, the qualitative and quantitative analysis of new psychotropic substances, such as vortioxetine, should be introduced.

**Conclusions.** Administration of vortioxetine in clinical trials in the dose range from 40 mg to 75 mg caused exacerbation of the following side effects: nausea, postural dizziness, diarrhea, abdominal discomfort, generalized pruritus,
Drowsiness, and facial flushing. Post-marketing experience mainly concerns overdose of vortioxetine up to 80 mg. The most common side effects are nausea and vomiting. Suicide attempt by vortioxetine was reported in a patient affected by Major Depressive Disorder. Seizures and serotonin syndrome have been reported after taking doses several times higher than the therapeutic range.

References: