

Sertraline : A new selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) for the treatment of major depressive disorder

Abdel-Azhim, Saeid A.

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In an eight-week study, sertraline was administered as a single daily dose for 32 patients with major depressive episode diagnosed according to DSM III-R criteria. Patients were 20 females and 12 males with a mean age of

36. 63 + or- 8.66. Sertraline initial dose was 50 mg once daily to be increased to 100 mg single daily dose at day 28 if there was no satisfactory response. Further increase to 150 mg single daily dose was made at day 42 in

case of no satisfactory improvement. Patients in the study were assessed on days -7, 0, 7, 14, 21, 28, 42 and

56 using Hamilton rating scales for depression and anxiety and clinical global impression for severity and improvement. The results showed a statistical significant improvement in HAM-D and HAM-A scoring together with improvement of depressive symptoms. Sertraline efficacy was marked in 24 patients.

Eighteen patients showed satisfactory improvement at a dose of 50 mg/day, while eight patients needed 100 mg/day and four patients needed 150 mg/day to show satisfactory improvement. No significant differences were noted in vital sign, body weight or laboratory results before and after therapy. Four patients reported adverse events which were moderate to severe and they were mainly tremors, dizziness, heaviness in lower limbs, dry mouth and

skin eruptions. The results showed that sertraline is effective and well tolerated for the treatment of major depressive disorder.