

Advances in medication development for addiction

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Medications to treat addiction will fill a very important gap in the treatments currently available for patients with addiction. NIDA's division on pharmacotherapies is tasked with finding effective and safe medications to treat addiction for illicit drugs and to seek FDA approval for these medications. Recently, the division in collaboration with Reckitt-Benkiser helped get Buprenorphine approved by FDA. Current studies are ongoing for Lofexidine and are planned for depot Naltrexone for opiate addiction.

For stimulants addiction, Bupropion showed positive effect in increasing abstinence from methamphetamine addiction in patients with mild to moderate use, medafinil showed a modest effect in increasing the number of consecutive days of abstinence for cocaine addiction. Buspirone and Marinol are two promising medications for marijuana withdrawal. New medications in the pipeline with promising preclinical data include the CB1 antagonist Rimonabant, D3 antagonist, AMPA antagonist and CRF antagonist. This presentation will highlight data from these studies and give a status update on medications development for addiction.