

## **Relapse prevention in depression**

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Major depressive disorder is a common and disabling illness, with rates of recurrence estimated at 40% within one year of the index depressive episode and 85% within 15 years. Recurrences of major depressive disorders are associated with substantial functional impairment, morbidity and mortality.

Recurrence is defined as a new major depressive episode that occurs during maintenance treatment, following the onset of recovery. Few studies have assessed the efficacy of antidepressants beyond one year of maintenance treatment for the prevention of recurrent depression.

This presentation will discuss the problems associated with the long-term treatment of depression and the burden of untreated depression as well as shedding light on the "Prevention of Recurrent Episodes of Depression with Venlafaxine for Two Years (PREVENT) Study".