Dextromethorphan/Quinidine Improved Symptoms of Pseudobulbar Affect Irrespective of Concomitant Antidepressant Use


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Abstract

Objective: To evaluate the effectiveness and safety of DM/Q treatment for PBA in patients who were using vs. not using concomitant neuropsychiatric medications.

Methods: The PRISM II study investigated the effectiveness of DM/Q treatment for PBA secondary to dementia, stroke, or TBI, comparing 40 mg/day DM/Q with placebo in 308 patients (n=102 dementia, n=102 stroke, n=104 TBI). The patients were randomized to be on or off antidepressant use. The primary outcome was improvement in baseline median PBA episode frequency at 30 days and 90 days using the PRAXIS II-PBA scale. Secondary outcomes including measures of depression and cognitive function were also evaluated.

Results: The patient demographic and baseline clinical characteristics are shown in Table 1. 148 (78.3%) were taking antidepressants at baseline. PBA may occur comorbidly with depression. Approximately half (178 (48.5%)] were taking antidepressants at baseline (4). The patient demographic and baseline clinical characteristics are shown in Table 1. All tests utilized the 2-sample t-test using an ANCOVA model with BL score as covariates. The incidence of AEs in each cohort are summarized in Table 2. Serious AEs were reported in 6.3% (5.6% vs. 6.9%) and 9.8% (7.9% vs. 11.6%) discontinued for AEs. Safety data were analyzed descriptively.

Conclusions: Post hoc analysis showed no significant difference in primary or secondary outcomes between patients on or off antidepressants at baseline. The study showed that DM/Q improved symptoms of PBA irrespective of concomitant antidepressant use. The results suggest that DM/Q may be effective for patients with PBA and concomitant depression.

Figure 1. Preferred Item Flowchart

Figure 2. Summary of American Board Certification by Specialty

Figure 3. Change From Baseline in PBA Episodes per Week, MMSE, CNS-LS, PHQ-9, QOL-VAS, 2015; 27(4):299-303.

Figure 4. Mean Change in OABQ Scores by Antidepressant Use at Baseline

Table 1. Demographics and Clinical Characteristics

Table 2. Incidence of AEs

Table 3. Summary of American Board Certification by Specialty

Table 4. Mean Change in OABQ Scores by Antidepressant Use at Baseline

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