

Lamictin for bipolar disorder

The treatment of bipolar depression has been reported to be the greatest 'unmet need' and treatment challenge in the management of bipolar disorder. However, with the proven efficacy of Lamictin in delaying time to intervention for manic and depressive episodes, but with more robust efficacy against depression, Lamictin could cause a 'major treatment paradigm shift'.

Registered for the prevention of mood episodes in patients over 18 years of age with bipolar disorder, predominantly by preventing depressive episodes, Lamictin has been classified as a class B mood stabiliser, in that it stabilises mood from below the line while not inducing switching or causing episode acceleration. Lamictin has also been proven to have a side-effect profile similar to that of placebo, which should assist in treatment adherence – an aspect of sizeable importance for the long-term maintenance treatment of patients with bipolar disorder.

Furthermore, with the up to 30% price decrease on Lamictin tablets, it is currently the only lamotrigine registered for the treatment of bipolar disorder while being a cost-effective option too.

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References available on request.*

New Aropax CR

GlaxoSmithKline has announced the launch of new Aropax CR – thus changing the many faces of depression and anxiety.

Aropax CR (controlled-release) was developed with the goal of minimising SSRI adverse events and improving clinical outcomes.

More than 25% of patients discontinue antidepressant therapy during the first month of treatment, and 44% within the first 3 months.

Aropax CR has an enteric coating that delays the start of tablet disintegration until it has left the stomach. A polymeric matrix (Geomatrix) core containing paroxetine erodes slowly, resulting in a more gradual release of paroxetine. These features delay the onset and control the rate of absorption.

Aropax CR is associated with lower rates of early-onset treatment-related nausea, and drop-out rates are similar to those of placebo. It provides early onset of lifting of mood (from week 1) and more patients stay on treatment to experience the benefits of effective therapy. Aropax CR has been shown to be highly effective in major depression, late-life depression, panic disorder and social phobia.

Aropax CR represents a successful pharmacokinetic approach to decreasing SSRI adverse events, thereby enhancing tolerability, adherence, and clinical outcomes.

References available on request.