TITLE: Long-term 5HT3 Antagonist Use for Alcohol Dependence: Clinical Evidence and Guidelines

DATE: 17 June 2014

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What are the clinical benefits and harms of long term (>5 day) 5HT3 antagonist use for the treatment of alcohol dependence?

2. What are the evidence-based guidelines for the use of 5HT3 antagonists for the treatment of alcohol dependence?

KEY MESSAGE

One systematic review, four randomized controlled trials, and one evidence-based guideline were identified regarding the use of 5HT3 antagonists for the treatment of alcohol dependence.

METHODS

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2014, Issue 5), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. The search was limited to English language documents published between Jan 1, 2009 and Jun 10, 2014. Internet links were provided, where available.

RESULTS

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, and evidence-based guidelines.
One systematic review, four randomized controlled trials, and one evidence-based guideline were identified regarding the use of 5HT3 antagonists for the treatment of alcohol dependence. No relevant health technology assessments or non-randomized studies were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

**Health Technology Assessments**

No literature identified.

**Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses**

   See: Detailed Synthesis: Placebo-Controlled Trials of Medications Used Off-Label or Those Under Investigation, page 36

**Randomized Controlled Trials**


**Non-Randomized Studies**

No literature identified.
Guidelines and Recommendations

See: Alcohol - last paragraph, page 37

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APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:

Review Articles


