Clinical Relevance of Levomilnacipran ER Treatment in Patients With Major Depressive Disorder: Functional Improvement in Impairment Categories

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Major depressive disorder (MDD) is associated with impaired functional outcomes. The aim of this study was to evaluate the functional improvement associated with levomilnacipran extended-release (ER), a serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (SNRI) compared to placebo in adult patients with MDD in 5 Phase II/III trials.

Methods: Data were pooled from 2 fixed- and 3 flexible-dose randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled studies of levomilnacipran ER in patients with MDD. Functional impairment was assessed using the Social and Disability Scale (SDS) at end of treatment (EOT) using 3 impairment categories: marked-extreme (score ≥7), moderate-extreme (score 4-6), and mild-none (score ≤3). Percentages of patients shifting from a more severe functional impairment category at baseline to a less severe one at EOT (≤50% increase in SDS total score) were assessed for each SDS subscore and for the SDS total score.

Results: More levomilnacipran ER than placebo patients showed categorical improvements using all 3 shift categories (Figure 1). On the Work subscore, the majority of patients shifted from marked-extreme to moderate-extreme impairment at baseline to moderate-none at EOT (score ≥7 to ≤3). For the Family/Home subscore, the majority of patients shifted from marked-extreme to moderate-none impairment at baseline to moderate-no impairment at EOT (score ≥7 to ≤4). For the Social subscore, the majority of patients shifted from extreme impairment to moderate-extreme impairment (score ≥10 to ≤7) at EOT.

Conclusions: Levomilnacipran ER is a potent serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor and has been recently approved by the FDA for the treatment of MDD in adults. Significant improvements in functional outcomes were seen across all impairment categories compared to placebo. These results suggest that levomilnacipran ER could be a useful treatment option for patients with MDD.

REFERENCES


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Levomilnacipran ER is a potent serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor and has been recently approved by the FDA for the treatment of MDD in adults. Significant improvements in functional outcomes were seen across all impairment categories compared to placebo. These results suggest that levomilnacipran ER could be a useful treatment option for patients with MDD.