

A DOUBLE-BLIND STUDY OF TRAZODONE AND AMITRIPTYLINE IN THE TREATMENT OF MOOD DISORDERS

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To compare the antidepressant and anxiolytic efficacy of Trazodone with that of a Standard antidepressant Amitriptyline in patients suffering from moderately severe to severe depressive disorders with some anxiety a double-blind non-cross over study was performed. Efficacy was **evaluated** by using HAM-D and HAM-A scales in 53 patients (12 female and 41 male) age between 18 and 65 yrs and fulfilling the DSM-III-R criteria for mood disorders. Patients with risk of conception, psychotic, organic, substance use, seizure disorders, mental deficiency, ECT in the preceding 6months, antidepressant medication within the previous 28 days, depression severe enough to warrant ECT were excluded. At the end of 4week trial no significant differences were evidenced as to the antidepressant and anxiolytic efficacies of both drugs at 300-600mg/day and 150-250mg/day doses for trazodone and amitriptyline respectively. The over all incidence of side effects was similar between groups. No side effect was considered to be significantly interfering with the patient's daily activities and no case of priapism was seen. Overall the therapeutic efficacy in relation to the incidence of clinically significant side effects, favoured both drugs for the treatment of depressive disorders with some anxiety.