

Buprenorphine / samidorphan helpful in refractory depression

6 November 2018



(HealthDay)—An adjunctive buprenorphine/samidorphan (BUP/SAM) combination seems beneficial for patients with major depressive disorder (MDD) with inadequate response to antidepressant therapy (ADT), according to a study published online Oct. 29 in *Molecular Psychiatry*.

Maurizio Fava, M.D., from Harvard Medical School in Boston, and colleagues report on the efficacy and safety of BUP/SAM as adjunctive treatment in patients with MDD and inadequate response to ADT in two phase 3 randomized studies (FORWARD-4 and FORWARD-5). The Montgomery-Åsberg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS) was used to measure efficacy.

The researchers found that the primary end point was achieved in FORWARD-5; adjunctive BUP/SAM 2 mg/2 mg was demonstrated to be superior to placebo (average difference change from baseline to week three through end of treatment [EOT] in MADRS-6 and -10 versus

placebo: ?1.5 [P = 0.018] and ?1.9 [P = 0.026], respectively); the primary end point was not achieved in FORWARD-4 (change from baseline in MADRS-10 at week five versus placebo: ?1.8; P = 0.109). In pooled analyses of the two studies, consistently greater reduction was seen in MADRS scores from baseline for BUP/SAM 2 mg/2 mg versus [placebo](#) at multiple time points, including EOT and average change from baseline to week three through EOT. For MADRS-10 change from baseline to EOT, the overall effect size in the pooled analyses was 0.22.

"Having a new class of antidepressants with a novel mechanism of action could have significant impact for patients with persistent symptoms," Fava said in a statement.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to pharmaceutical companies, including Alkermes, manufacturer of ALKS 5461 (buprenorphine/samidorphan).

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

Copyright © 2018 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

APA citation: Buprenorphine / samidorphan helpful in refractory depression (2018, November 6)
retrieved 3 December 2022 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-11-buprenorphine-samidorphan-refractory-depression.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.