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Genetic variants in the ABCB1 gene determine bioavailability of antidepressants in the brain

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Introduction Antidepressants are the first-line treatment of major depressive disorder, but response rates following the first antidepressant medication are moderate.

Clinical efficacy requires to overcome the blood-brain barrier where p-gp molecules are located. If they recognize and bind an antidepressant, they pump it back into the circulation. If the antidepressant is not recognized, the passage is not impaired by p-glycoproteins.

We studied whether variants in the ABCB1 gene that Aims encodes the p-glycoprotein have an effect on blood-brain passage of antidepressants and as consequence on their clinical benefit.

Methods ABCB1 gene variants were determined with sequencing (Illumina Bead), substrate property analysis employed mice with deletion of ABCB1-analog genes. Clinical protocols followed those of the MARS-project.

- The SNPs rs2032583 and rs2235015 provide the best clinical information about blood-brain-penetrance, with CC/CT and TT/GT being the favourable gene variants whereas TT and GG are less favourable. This distinction holds only true if antidepressants are p-glycoprotein substrates;

- in the presence of the favourable gene-variant patients treated with an antidepressant that is a p-glycoprotein substrate are more likely to remit in shorter time;
- in the presence of the less favourable gene-variant treatment with a substrate, higher dosages and augmentation strategies, or switch to non-substrates are recommended.

Conclusion From these data, a treatment algorithm was developed that maximizes treatment benefit and minimizes adverse

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Self-stigma and quality of life in outpatients with depressive disorder - a cross-sectional study

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Self-stigma is a maladaptive psychosocial phenomenon that may disturb many areas of patient's life and have the negative impact on their quality of life. The present study explored the association between self-stigma, quality of life, demographic data, and the severity of symptoms in patients with depressive disorder.

Method Patients, who met ICD-10 research criteria for depressive disorder, were enrolled in the cross-sectional study. All probands completed these measurements: the Quality of Life Satisfaction and Enjoyment Questionnaire (Q-LES-Q), the Internalised Stigma of Mental Illness Scale (ISMI), demographic questionnaire, and the severity of the disorder measured by objective and subjective Clinical Global Impression severity scales (CGI).

Results Eighty-one depressive patients (with persistent affective disorder - dysthymia, major depressive disorder or recurrent depressive disorder) and 43 healthy controls contributed to the study. Comparing with the healthy control group, there was a lower quality of life in patients with depression. The level of selfstigma correlated positively with total symptom severity score and negatively with the quality of life. Multiple regression analysis discovered that the overall rating of objective symptoms severity and self-stigma were significantly associated with the quality of life.

Present study suggests the lower quality of life in outpatients with depressive disorder in comparison with healthy controls, and the negative impact of self-stigma level on quality of life in patients suffering from depressive disorders.

Disclosure of interest The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

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