

Physical activity as antidepressant


How good is it and why hasn't my doctor told me about it?

Panteleimon Ekkekakis, Ph.D., FACSM, FNAK

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

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JAMA April 18, 2017 Volume 317, Number 15 1917



World Health Organization

Depression and Other Common Mental Disorders

Global Health Estimates

Depression Is the Leading Cause of Disability Around the World

The proportion of the global population living with depression is estimated to be 322 million people—4.4% of the world's population—according to a new report, "Depression and Other Common Mental Disorders: Global Health Estimates," released by the World Health Organization. The report also in-

2

Journal of Affective Disorders 193 (2016) 203–207

Mortality and life expectancy in persons with severe unipolar depression

Thomas Munk Laursen^{a,b}, Katherine L. Musliner^{a,b}, Michael E Benros^c, Mogens Vestergaard^d, Trine Munk-Olsen^a

Mortality Rate Ratio: 2.07

Life Expectancy Difference: 14 years in men, 10 years in women

Methods: We followed a Danish population-based cohort from 1995–2013 (N=5,103,699). The cohort included all residents in Denmark during the study period. Mortality rate ratios (MRRs) and life expectancy in persons with unipolar depression were calculated using survival analysis techniques.

Results: The overall MRR was 2.07 (95% Confidence Interval (CI): 2.05–2.09) in people with a previous unipolar depression diagnosis compared to the general Danish population. This excess mortality translated into a reduced life expectancy of 14.0 years in men and 10.1 years in women (assuming onset at age 15). The MRR was highest for death due to suicide and accidents (MRR: 4.66; 95% CI: 4.53–4.79), but the absolute number of deaths was highest for natural causes.

4

British Journal of Psychiatry (2013) 203, 90–102

Adjusted prognostic association of depression following myocardial infarction with mortality and cardiovascular events: individual patient data meta-analysis

A. Meijer, H. J. Conradi, E. H. Bos, M. Anselmino, R. M. Carney, J. Denollet, F. Doyle, K. E. Freedland, S. L. Grace, S. H. Hosseini, D. A. Lane, L. Pilote, K. Parakh, K. Rafanelli, H. Sato, R. P. Steeds, C. Welin and P. de Jonge

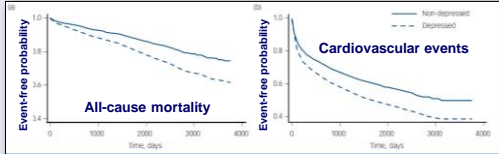


Fig 2 Survival curves adjusted for age and gender. (a) All-cause mortality (ACM), based on ten studies, n=7691. (b) cardiovascular events (CVE), based on seven studies, n=6616.

5

BMJ Open 2015;5:e008853

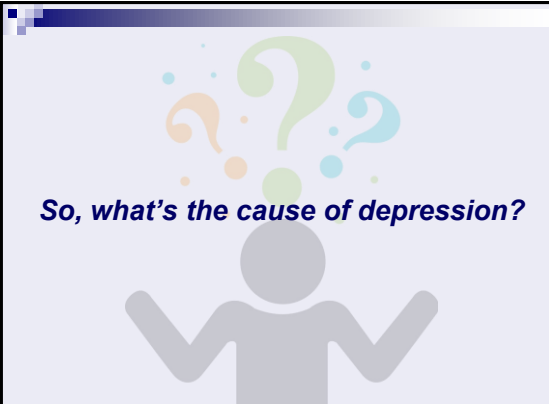
Dementia risk estimates associated with measures of depression: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Nicolas Cherbuin, Sarang Kim, Kaarin J Anstey

Author(s) and Year	Risk Ratio [95%CI]
Dal Forno et al. (m) 2005	1.85 [0.62, 5.52]
Dal Forno et al. (f) 2005	2.38 [1.15, 4.93]
Fuhrer et al. (m) 2003	3.70 [1.72, 7.98]
Fuhrer et al. (f) 2003	0.60 [0.29, 1.25]
Gatz et al. 2005	3.49 [1.08, 11.28]
Heser et al. 2013	1.24 [0.78, 1.93]
Heun et al. 2006	2.37 [1.07, 5.23]
Irie et al. 2008	2.20 [0.92, 5.18]
Jungwirth et al. 2009	2.70 [1.28, 5.66]
Vitalls-Franich et al. 2012	3.94 [1.31, 11.84]
RE Model	2.04 [1.40, 2.98]

RR for risk of Alzheimer's: 2.04

6



So, what's the cause of depression?

7

Brit. J. Psychiat. (1967), **113**, 1237-1264

The Biochemistry of Affective Disorders

By ALEC COPPEN

There is growing evidence of a causal association between brain monoamines and affective disturbances; if brain monoamines are depleted by

NCC1=CN=C(O)C=C1
 Serotonin

NCC(O)C1=CC=C(O)C=C1
 Norepinephrine

NCC1=CC=C(O)C=C1
 Dopamine

8

N Engl J Med 2008;358:55-68

Major Depressive Disorder

R.H. Belmaker, M.D., and Galila Agam, Ph.D.

THE MONOAMINE-DEFICIENCY HYPOTHESIS

increase the availability of neurotransmitters. These discoveries led to a major theory of depression known as the monoamine-deficiency hypothesis. Numerous studies of norepinephrine and serotonin metabolites in plasma, urine, and cerebrospinal fluid, as well as postmortem studies of the brains of patients with depression, have yet to identify the purported deficiency reliably. However, a newly dis-

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Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews 51 (2015) 164-188

Is serotonin an upper or a downer? The evolution of the serotonergic system and its role in depression and the antidepressant response

Paul W. Andrews^{1,2}, Aadil Bharwani³, Kyuwon R. Lee⁴, Molly Fox⁵, J. Anderson Thomson Jr.^{1,2,6}

6. Conclusion and future directions

The reigning paradigm conceptualizes depression as a state of reduced serotonin transmission. In this paper we have reviewed a large body of evidence indicating that the opposite appears to be true. For the depressive phenotypes we have considered—sickness behavior, starvation depression, and melancholia—serotonin transmission to multiple brain regions appears to be elevated. Others have suggested serotonin transmission is elevated in depression (Andrews and Thomson, 2009; Petty et al., 1994; Zangen et al., 1997), but this is the first in-depth review of the high serotonin hypothesis.

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Journal of Affective Disorders, 12 (1987) 13-22

5-HT and 5-HIAA in cerebrospinal fluid in depression

Annette Gjerris¹, Anne Stub Sørensen¹, Ole J. Rafaelsen¹, Lene Werdelin², Christor Alling³ and Markku Linnoila⁴

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Molecular Psychiatry

The serotonin theory of depression: a systematic umbrella review of the evidence

Joanna Moncrieff^{1,2,3}, Ruth E. Cooper³, Tom Stockmann⁴, Simone Amendola⁵, Michael P. Hengartner⁶ and Mark A. Horowitz^{1,2,3}

Our comprehensive review of the major strands of research on serotonin shows there is no convincing evidence that depression is associated with, or caused by, lower serotonin concentrations or activity. Most studies found no evidence of reduced serotonin activity in people with depression compared to people without, and methods to reduce serotonin availability using tryptophan depletion do not consistently lower mood in volunteers. High quality, well-powered genetic studies effectively exclude an association between genotypes related to the serotonin system and depression, including a proposed interaction with stress.

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JAMA. 2009;301(23):2462-2471

Interaction Between the Serotonin Transporter Gene (5-HTTLPR), Stressful Life Events, and Risk of Depression A Meta-analysis

Author	Year	N
Neel Risch, PhD	2009	14,120
Richard Horvath, PhD	2009	1,000
Tiziana Lorenz, PhD	2009	1,000
Kang-Yun Liang, PhD	2009	1,000
Ludovic Ferrer, PhD	2009	1,000
Josephine Hall, PhD	2009	1,000
Andreas Grotzer, BS	2009	1,000
Manu Kanner, PhD	2009	1,000
Angela Lee, PhD	2009	1,000
Katharina Henning, PhD	2009	1,000

OR (95% CI)

Conclusion This meta-analysis yielded no evidence that the serotonin transporter genotype alone or in interaction with stressful life events is associated with an elevated risk of depression in men alone, women alone, or in both sexes combined.

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Beck Depression Inventory




0. I do not feel sad.
1. I feel sad.
2. I am sad all the time and can't snap out of it.
3. I am so sad or unhappy that I can't stand it.

BCI-II
Range: 0-63

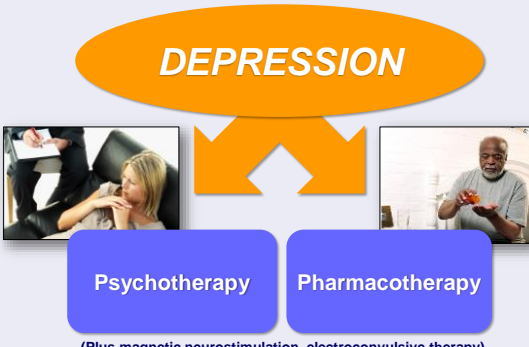
0. I am not particularly discouraged about the future.
1. I feel discouraged about the future.
2. I feel I have nothing to look forward to.
3. I feel that the future is hopeless and that things cannot improve.

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So, how do we treat depression?

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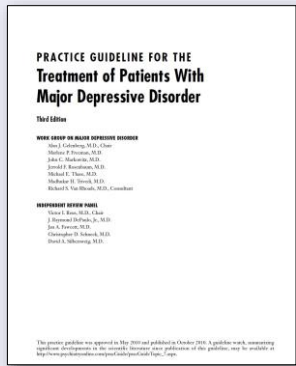
DEPRESSION

Psychotherapy

Pharmacotherapy

(Plus magnetic neurostimulation, electroconvulsive therapy)

24



2010

PRACTICE GUIDELINE FOR THE Treatment of Patients With Major Depressive Disorder

Third Edition

WORK GROUP ON MAJOR DEPRESSIVE DISORDER

David C. Kolko, MD, Chair
Michael F.ava, MD
Joseph F.ava, MD
Michael H. Smith, MD
Richard H. Work, MD, Co-Chair

MEMBER REVIEW PANEL

David C. Kolko, MD, Chair
Michael Fava, MD
Joseph Fava, MD
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Richard H. Work, MD

AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

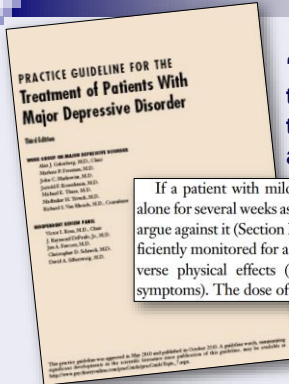
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2010

Severity of Illness	Modality			
	Pharmacotherapy	Depression-Focused Psychotherapy	Pharmacotherapy in Combination With Depression-Focused Psychotherapy	Electroconvulsive Therapy
Mild to Moderate	Yes	Yes	May be useful for patients with psychosocial or interpersonal problems, intrapsychic conflict, or co-occurring Axis II disorder	Yes, for certain patients
Severe Without Psychotic Features	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Severe With Psychotic Features	Yes, provide both antidepressant and antipsychotic medication	No	Yes, provide both antidepressant and antipsychotic medication	Yes

FIGURE 1. Recommended Modalities for Acute Phase Treatment of Major Depressive Disorder

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2010

PRACTICE GUIDELINE FOR THE Treatment of Patients With Major Depressive Disorder

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“If a patient wishes to try exercise... there is little to argue against it...”

If a patient with mild depression wishes to try exercise alone for several weeks as a first intervention, there is little to argue against it (Section II.A.10), provided the patient is sufficiently monitored for an abrupt worsening of mood or adverse physical effects (e.g., ischemia or musculoskeletal symptoms). The dose of exercise and adherence to an exer-

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Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice 19 (2013) 674-681

Conflicts of interest and the quality of recommendations in clinical guidelines[†]

Lisa Cosgrove, PhD^{1,2} Harold J. Burstein, MD¹ Deborah R. Erlich, MD, MmedEd³, Emily E. Wheeler, MS³ and Allen F. Shaughnessy, PharmD, MmedEd³

Dr. These reports that he provided scientific consultation to AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly & Company, Forest Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Gerson Lehman Group, GlaxoSmithKline, Guidepoint Global, H. Lundbeck A/S, MedAvante, Inc., Neurotics, Inc., Novartis, Otsuka, Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceuticals, PainLab, L.L.C., Pfizer (formerly Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories), Schering-Plough (formerly Organon), Shire U.S., Inc., Supernus Pharmaceuticals, Takeda (Lundbeck), and Transcept Pharmaceuticals. He was a member of the advisory boards for AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Eli Lilly & Company, GlaxoSmithKline, the National Institute of Mental Health, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and Sceptacor, Inc. He had equity holdings in MedAvante, Inc., and received royalty income from American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc., Guilford Publications, Herald House, Oxford University Press, and W.W. Norton and Company. His wife was employed as the group scientific director for Embryon (formerly Advogent), which does business with Bristol-Myers Squibb and Pfizer/Wyeth.

Financial ties to industry were disclosed by all members (100%) of the guideline development and Commitment committee with members reporting a mean 20.5 relationships (range 9-33). The majority of the committee participated on pharmaceutical companies' speakers' bureaus.

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Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice 19 (2013) 674-681

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recommendations. Fewer than half (44.4%) of the studies supporting the recommendations met criteria for high quality. Over one-third (34.2%) of the cited research did not study outpatients with major depressive disorder, and 17.2% did not measure clinically relevant results. One-fifth (19.7%) of the references were not congruent with the recommendations.

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Ann Intern Med. 2016;164:350-359

Nonpharmacologic Versus Pharmacologic Treatment of Adult Patients With Major Depressive Disorder: A Clinical Practice Guideline From the American College of Physicians

Amir Qaseem, MD, PhD, MHA; Michael J. Barry, MD; and Devan Kansagara, MD, MCR, for the Clinical Guidelines Committee of the American College of Physicians

Recommendation: ACP recommends that clinicians select between either cognitive behavioral therapy or second-generation antidepressants to treat patients with major depressive disorder after discussing treatment effects, adverse effect profiles, cost, accessibility, and preferences with the patient (Grade: strong recommendation, moderate-quality evidence).

ACP American College of Physicians®
Leading Internal Medicine, Improving Lives

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2019

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

APA CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE for the Treatment of Depression Across Three Age Cohorts

Psychotherapy and Pharmacotherapy
For initial treatment of adult patients with depression,¹⁶ the panel recommends the following in the context of sharing decision-making with the patient when considering options:

1. That clinicians offer either psychotherapy or second-generation antidepressant.¹⁷
2. If considering combined treatment, the panel recommends cognitive-behavioral therapy or interpersonal psychotherapy plus a second-generation antidepressant.

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Journal of Affective Disorders 147 (2013) 94-100

Treatment preferences in patients with first episode depression

Janie Houle^{a,b}, Benjamin Villaggi^a, Marie-Dominique Beaulieu^b, Francois Lesperance^c, Gilles Rondeau^d, Jean Lambert^e

Antidepressants prescribed to 91% of patients with first-episode depression

Characteristics	n (%)
Current treatment	
Antidepressants only	50 (56.8)
Psychotherapy only	2 (2.3)
Both treatments	30 (34.1)
None	6 (6.8)

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JAMA. 2015;314(17):1818-1831

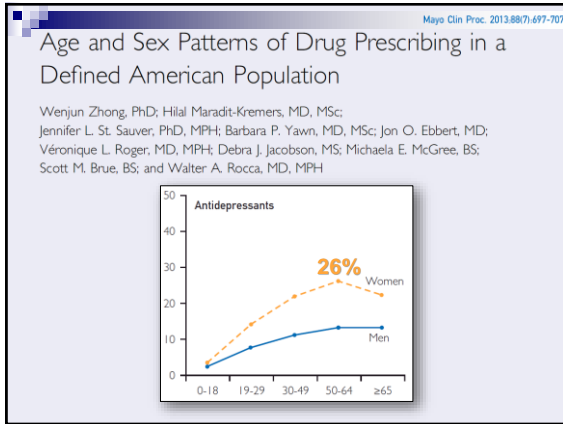
Trends in Prescription Drug Use Among Adults in the United States From 1999-2012

Elizabeth D. Kantor, PhD, MPH; Colin D. Rehm, PhD, MPH; Jennifer S. Haas, MD, MSc; Andrew T. Chan, MD, MPH; Edward L. Giovannucci, MD, ScD

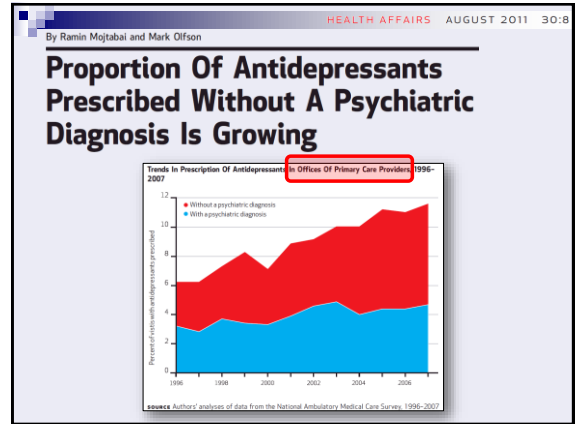
Prevalence of Antidepressant Use (%)

In 2012...	
Antihypertensives	27%
Antihyperlipidemics	18%
Antidepressants	13%

33



34



35

Arch Gen Psychiatry. 2009;66(8):848-856

National Patterns in Antidepressant Medication Treatment

Mark Olfson, MD, MPH; Steven C. Marcus, PhD

Table 3. Clinical Characteristics of Persons Treated With Antidepressants in the United States, 1996 and 2005

Characteristics	Percentage (95% CI)	
	MEPS 1996 (n = 1829)	MEPS 2005 (n = 2492)
Depression	26.85 (24.30-29.29)	26.85 (24.88-28.81)
Bipolar disorder	1.81 (1.09-3.01)	3.25 (2.49-4.23)
Anxiety	8.55 (6.92-10.52)	14.14 (12.70-15.71)
Adjustment	2.20 (1.46-3.29)	3.34 (2.58-4.30)
Headache	8.82 (7.04-11.01)	5.46 (4.52-6.58)
Back pain	12.95 (10.83-15.41)	15.17 (13.68-16.80)
Neuropathy	3.77 (2.87-5.37)	3.99 (3.25-4.88)
Fatigue	2.47 (1.69-3.81)	1.39 (0.95-2.08)
Sleep disorder	3.77 (2.87-5.37)	5.34 (4.43-6.43)
Mental health status		
Excellent to good	74.84 (71.13-78.23)	78.97 (76.97-80.85)
Fair to poor	25.16 (21.77-28.87)	19.15 (23.04-14.13)

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NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

3 points on the HRSD (out of 0-52 range)
3 points on the BDI (out of 0-63 range)
or $d = 0.50$ standard deviations

For continuous outcomes for which an SMD was calculated (for example, when data from different versions of a scale are combined), an effect size of ≥ 0.5 (a 'medium' effect size; Cohen, 1988) or higher was considered clinically significant. Where a WMD was calculated, a between group difference of at least three points (two points for treatment-resistant depression) was considered clinically significant for both BDI and HRSD.

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small: $d = .20$,
medium: $d = .50$,
large: $d = .80$.

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Anti-depressants: Major study finds they work

By Alex Therrien
Health reporter, BBC News
© 22 February 2018



Dr Andrea Cipriani

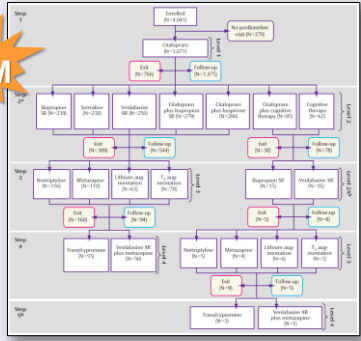
Scientists say they have settled one of medicine's biggest debates after a huge study found that anti-depressants work.

Lead researcher Dr Andrea Cipriani, from the University of Oxford, told the BBC: "This study is the **final answer to a long-standing controversy** about whether anti-depressants work for depression.

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STAR*D
Sequenced Treatment Alternatives to Relieve Depression

\$35M




48

(Psychiatric Services 60:1439-1445, 2009)

What Did STAR*D Teach Us? Results From a Large-Scale, Practical, Clinical Trial for Patients With Depression

Bradley N. Gaynes, M.D., M.P.H.
Diane Warden, Ph.D., M.B.A.
Madhukar H. Trivedi, M.D.
Stephen R. Wisniewski, Ph.D.
Maurizio Fava, M.D.
A. John Rush, M.D.



STAR*D results
Level 1 outcomes
A total of 2,876 individuals with analyzable data completed level 1 treatment. Measurement-based care was feasible and led to an average citalopram dosage of greater than 40 mg per day, indicating that high-quality care was delivered in these real-world settings. **Remission rates were 27% as measured by HAM-D and 33% as measured by QIDS-SR**, and response rates were 47% as measured by QIDS-SR. For those whose symptoms remitted, the mean time to re-

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NIH National Institute of Mental Health

Questions and Answers about the NIMH Sequenced Treatment Alternatives to Relieve Depression (STAR*D) Study – All Medication Levels

November 2006

In conclusion, about half of participants in the STAR*D study became symptom-free after two treatment levels. Over the course of all four treatment levels, **almost 70 percent** of those who did not withdraw from the study became symptom-free. However, the rate

50

CLEVELAND CLINIC JOURNAL OF MEDICINE VOLUME 75 • NUMBER 1 JANUARY 2008

The STAR*D study: Treating depression in the real world

BRADLEY N. GAYNES, MD, MPH*
Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Investigator, Sequenced Treatment Alternatives to Relieve Depression, STAR*D study

A. JOHN RUSH, MD*
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Professor of Clinical Sciences and Psychiatry, Principal Investigator, STAR*D study

MADHUKAR H. TRIVEDI, MD*
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, Professor of Psychiatry, National Coordinating Center, STAR*D study

STEPHEN R. WISNIEWSKI, PHD*
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Associate Professor of Epidemiology, Data Coordinating Center, STAR*D study

DONALD SPENCER, MD, MBA*
University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Professor of Family Medicine, Investigator, STAR*D study

MAURIZIO FAVA, MD*
Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Professor of Psychiatry, Investigator, STAR*D study

For patients who present with major depressive disorder, STAR*D suggests that with persistence and aggressive yet feasible care, **there is hope** after one round, approximately 30% will have a remission; after two rounds, 50%; after three rounds, 60%; and after four rounds, 70%.

The **theoretical** cumulative remission rate after four acute treatment steps was 67%.

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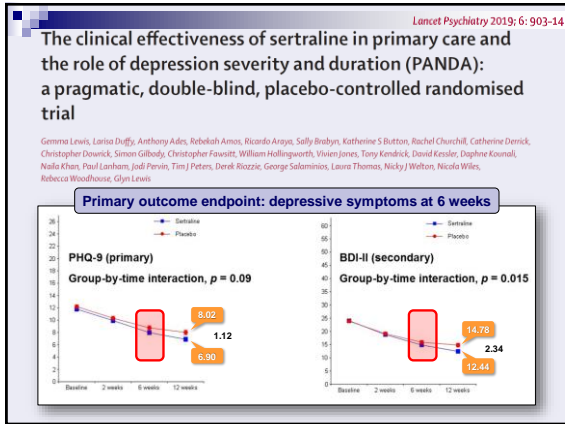
Can. Psychiatry 2015;60(1):9-13

The STAR*D Trial: It Is Time to Reexamine the Clinical Beliefs That Guide the Treatment of Major Depression

H Edmund Pigott, PhD¹

treatment effects is even paltrier. Only **2.7%** of patients had a QIDS-SR determined remission after up to 4 rounds of AD drug care and neither relapsed nor dropped out as evidenced by taking at least 1 of the months 10-to-12 QIDS-SR telephonic assessments and not scoring as having relapsed in any of the 12 monthly administered assessments.

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BBC NEWS

Sertraline: Antidepressant works 'by reducing anxiety symptoms first'

© 20 September 2019

A commonly-prescribed antidepressant reduces anxiety first and has a smaller effect on depressive symptoms weeks later, a study suggests.

Researchers at University College London said it made people feel better but worked in unexpected ways.

Their trial involved 653 UK patients, half of whom were given sertraline and the other half a placebo (dummy pill).

Psychiatrists say the findings are reassuring for doctors and patients, confirming the benefits of treatment.

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Antidepressants: Examples of Possible Side Effects

Relatively minor; usually short-lived

- Diarrhea
- Dizziness
- Dry mouth
- Headaches
- Nausea
- Sweating
- Tremors

More serious. Can be dangerous. May need to switch drugs if they persist.

- Drowsiness or confusion
- Feeling of panic or dread
- Increased thoughts of suicide
- Insomnia
- Loss of libido, difficulty achieving erections, inability to reach orgasm
- Nervousness and agitation
- Weight gain

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WARNING: Suicidality and Antidepressant Drugs

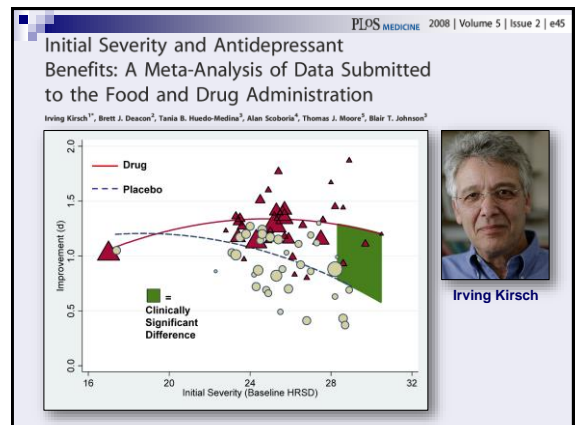
See full prescribing information for complete boxed warning.

- Increased risk of suicidal thinking and behavior in children, adolescents, and young adults taking antidepressants for major depressive disorder (MDD) and other psychiatric disorders. Cymbalta is not approved for use in pediatric patients (5.1).

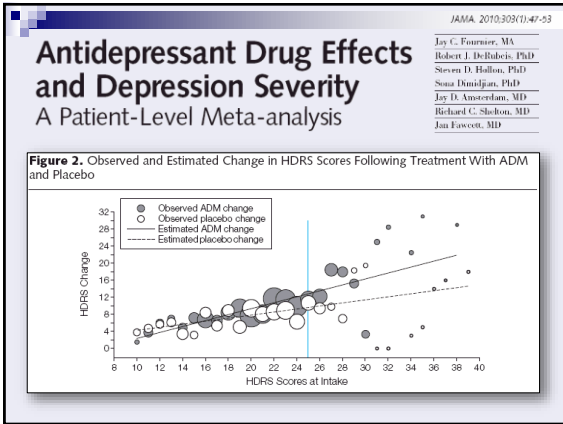
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So, what about exercise?

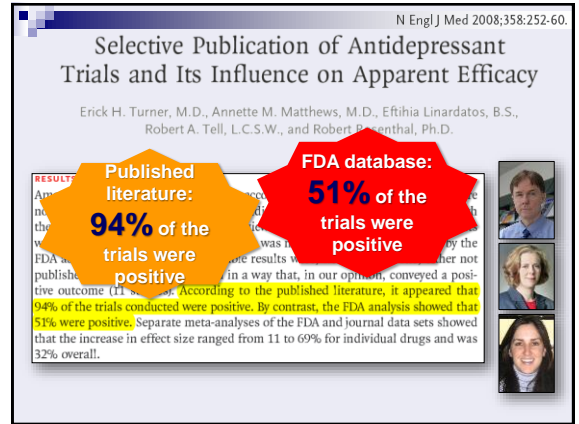
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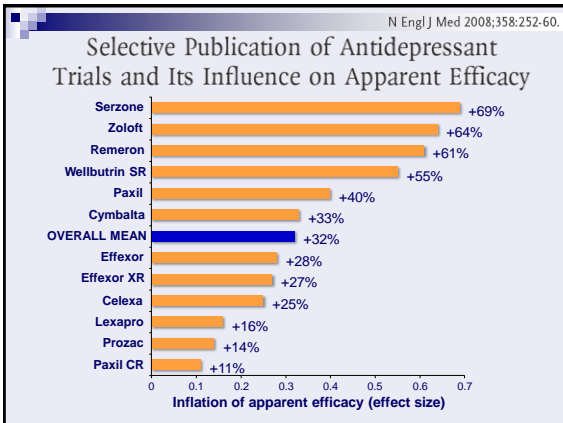
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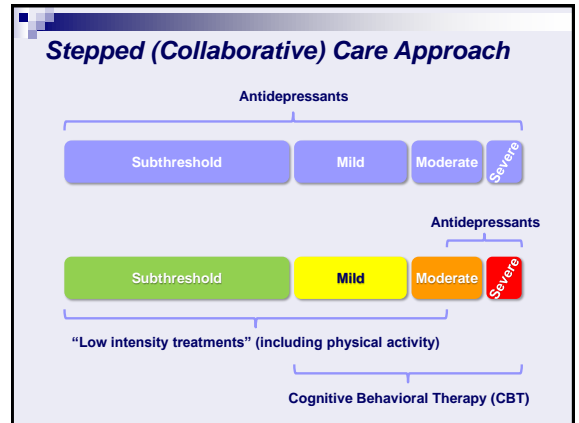
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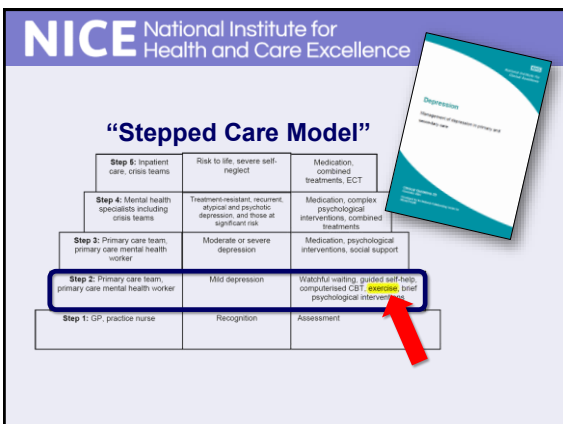
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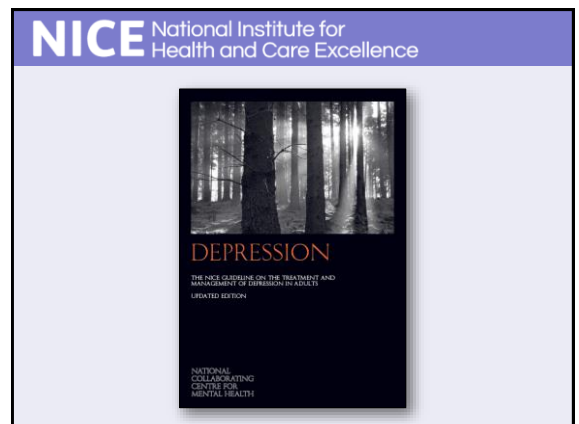
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62



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NICE National Institute for Health and Care Excellence

7.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

Low-intensity psychosocial interventions

7.5.1.1 For people with persistent subthreshold depressive symptoms or mild to moderate depression, consider offering one or more of the following interventions, guided by the person's preference:

- individual guided self-help based on the principles of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT)
- computerised cognitive behavioural therapy (CCBT)⁵²
- **a structured group physical activity programme.**

7.5.1.4 Physical activity programmes for people with persistent subthreshold depressive symptoms or mild to moderate depression should:

- be delivered in groups with support from a competent practitioner
- consist typically of three sessions per week of moderate duration (45 minutes to 1 hour) over 10 to 14 weeks (average 12 weeks).

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JAMA Psychiatry, 2022;79(6):550-559

Association Between Physical Activity and Risk of Depression
A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

Matthew Pearce, PhD; Leandro Garcia, PhD; Ali Abbas, PhD; Tessa Strain, PhD; Felipe Barreto Schuch, PhD; Rajna Golubic, PhD; Paul Kelly, PhD; Saad Khan, MB, BChir; Mrudula Utukuri, MB, BChir; Yvonne Laird, PhD; Alexander Mok, PhD; Andrea Smith, PhD; Marko Tainio, PhD; Seren Brage, PhD; James Woodcock, PhD

Figure 1. Association Between Physical Activity and Incidence of Depression

191,130 participants
28,806 depression events
2,110,588 person-years

Relative risk

Physical activity, mMET-h/wk

-25%

7.5

66

Meta-Analyses: Effects of Exercise on Depression

Standardized Mean Difference (SMD)

Ekkekakis (2015)
Kwam et al. (2016)
Ruyter & Hovatta (2016)
Schulch et al. (2016)
Bullock et al. (2019)
Moore et al. (2019)

-0.86

67

Br J Sports Med 2023

Exercise as medicine for depressive symptoms? A systematic review and meta-analysis with meta-regression

Andreas Heissel¹, Darlene Heinen¹, Luisa Leonie Brokmeier¹, Nora Skarabis¹, Maria Kangas², Davy Vancampfort³, Brendon Stubbs⁴, Joseph Firth⁵, Philip B Ward⁶, Simon Rosenbaum⁷, Mats Hallgren⁸, Felipe Schuch^{9,10,11}

41 RCTs
2,544 participants
SMD₁ = -0.946
SMD₂ = -0.717

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General Hospital Psychiatry 49 (2017) A1-A5

Exercise as antidepressant treatment: Time for the transition from trials to clinic?

Panteleimon Ekkekakis¹, Martino Belvederi Murri²

Compared to pill placebo

Standardized Mean Difference

Exercise (n=2)
Antidepressants (n=36)
Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (n=1)
Antidepressants (placebo) (n=36)

-0.42
-0.34
-0.25
-0.18

69

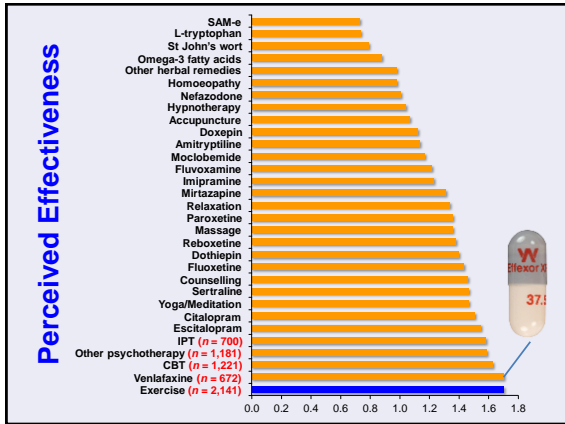
Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry 2007; 41:32-37

Judged effectiveness of differing antidepressant strategies by those with clinical depression

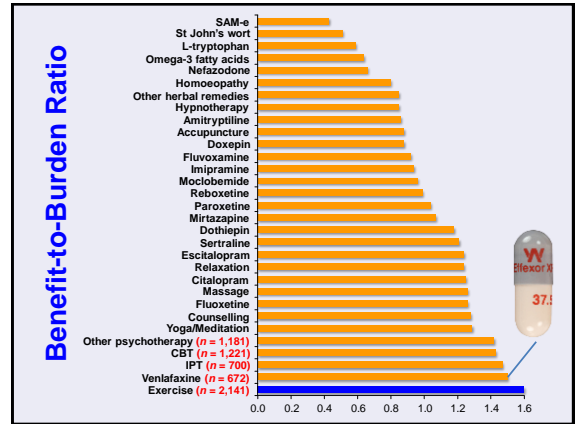
Gordon Parker, Joanna Crawford

Survey of 2,692 respondents with a clinically diagnosed depressive episode

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SIGN
Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network

114 Psychological treatment of depression adults

B Structured exercise may be considered as a treatment option for patients with depression.

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Trimbos
instituut
Netherlands Institute of Mental Health and Addiction

In patients who report with mild depression (non-suicidal, non-psychotic), with a first episode of less than 3 months, physical effort or physical activity should be considered as first-step intervention.

If after a period of 3 months with physical exertion or physical activity no or insufficient effect appears, another intervention should be considered.

In patients who report with mild depression (non-suicidal, non-psychotic), with a first episode lasting more than 3 months or a relapse, consideration should be given to adding physical exercise or physical activity to the basic interventions.

In patients who report with a (moderately) severe depression (non-suicidal, non-psychotic), with a first episode or recurrence, consideration should be given to adding physical exertion or physical activity to the basic interventions.

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Canadian Journal of Psychiatry 2016, Vol. 61 (9) 576-587

Canadian Network for Mood and Anxiety Treatments (CANMAT) 2016 Clinical Guidelines for the Management of Adults with Major Depressive Disorder: Section 5. Complementary and Alternative Medicine Treatments

Arun V. Ravindran, MB, PhD¹, Lynda G. Balneaves, PhD¹, Guy Faulkner, PhD², Abigail Ortiz, MD, MSc², Diane McIntosh, MD⁴, Rachel L. Morehouse, MD³, Lakshmi Ravindran, MD¹, Lakshmi N. Yatham, MB, MBA (Exec)³, Sidney H. Kennedy, MD¹, Raymond W. Lam, MD³, Glenda M. MacQueen, MD, PhD⁴, Roumen V. Milev, MD, PhD⁷, Sagar V. Parikh, MD^{1,a}, and the CANMAT Depression Work Group^a

Intervention	Indication	Recommendation	Evidence	Monotherapy or Adjunctive Therapy
Exercise	Mild to moderate MDD Moderate to severe MDD	First line Second line	Level I Level I	Monotherapy Adjunctive

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Australian & New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry 2015, Vol. 49(12) 1087-1206

Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists clinical practice guidelines for mood disorders

Figure 6. Management of major depressive disorder.

GOAL The main objective of treatment is the complete remission of depression with full functional recovery and the development of resilience.

STEP 0

- Taper and cease any agents that can potentially lower mood
- Institute sleep hygiene
- Implement appropriate lifestyle changes e.g. smoking cessation, adopt regular exercise and achieve a healthy diet
- Address substance misuse if relevant

IF STEP 0 INSUFFICIENT

GENERIC PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTIONS	PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPY	PHARMACOTHERAPY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychoeducation (family, friends, caregivers) Low intensity interventions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First line SSRIs: NaSSAs, NDRIs, SNRIs, NARIs

STEP 1


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European Psychiatry 54 (2018) 124–144

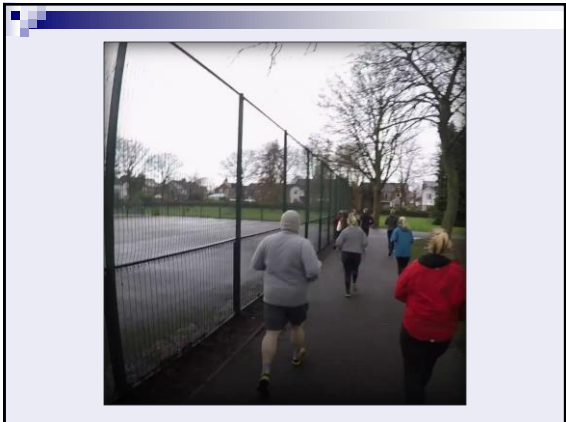
EPA guidance on physical activity as a treatment for severe mental illness: a meta-review of the evidence and Position Statement from the European Psychiatric Association (EPA), supported by the International Organization of Physical Therapists in Mental Health (IOPTMH)

Brendon Stubbs^{1b,c}, Davy Vancampfort¹, Mats Hallgren¹, Joseph Firth^{1,d}, Nicola Veronese², Marco Solmi¹, Serge Brand^{1,k}, Joachim Cordes¹, Berend Malchow³, Markus Gerber⁴, Andrea Schmitt^{5,6}, Christoph U. Correll^{7,8,9}, Marc De Hert¹⁰, Fiona Gaughran¹¹, Frank Schneider¹², Florence Kinnafick¹³, Peter Falkai¹⁴, Hans-Jürgen Möller¹⁵, Kai G. Kahl¹⁶

recommendations. For MDD, consistent evidence indicated that PA can improve depressive symptoms versus control conditions, with effects comparable to those of antidepressants and psychotherapy. PA can also improve cardiorespiratory fitness and quality of life in people with MDD, although the impact on physical health outcomes was limited. There were no differences in adverse events versus control conditions. For MDD, larger effect sizes were seen when PA was delivered at moderate-vigorous intensity and supervised by an exercise specialist. For schizophrenia-spectrum disorders, evidence



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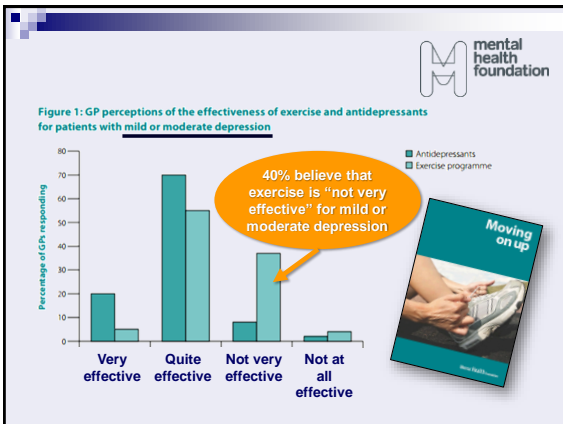
BMC Family Practice 2014, 15:5

Stepped care for depression is easy to recommend, but harder to implement: results of an explorative study within primary care in the Netherlands

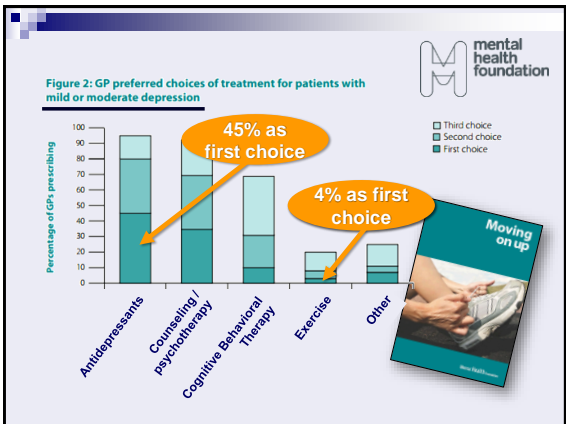
Marleen LM Hermens¹, Anna Muntingh^{1,2}, Gerdien Franx¹, Peter T van Splunteren¹ and Jasper Nuyten¹

lifestyle advice (e.g. on healthy diet and exercise). Patients were seldom referred to group courses or to running therapy. E-health interventions were provided sparsely by both the GPs and the


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Prescribing exercise key to defusing 'ticking mental health time bomb'

14 October 2013
Healthcare charity calls for all GPs to consider exercise

cent) said ill health affected their mood. When asked about treatment, just one per cent of those visiting their GP were recommended exercise as a way to alleviate symptoms, compared to 46 per cent prescribed the most common treatment - medication.

**ADs prescribed 46%
to 1% over exercise...**

**...but only 4% say they
prefer ADs to exercise**

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**Thank
you!**

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