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Background: The aim of this presentation is to summarize the results of the published systematic reviews / meta-analyses of the randomized controlled trials that have investigated the effectiveness of medications for the treatment of obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) in children/adolescents and adults and to present preliminary results from a new review study using network meta-analytical techniques

Methods: Medline, Cochrane database, and the register of controlled trials maintained by the Cochrane Collaboration Depression, Anxiety & Neurosis Group (CCDAN) were searched for relevant trials, systematic reviews and/or meta-analyses.

Results Regarding the new review study we were able to extract 103 pharmacological arms (preliminary results: 9 for Fluoxetine, 16 for Fluvoxamine, 11 for Paroxetine, 10 for Sertraline, 16 for Clomipramine, 7 for Citalopram / escitalopram, 2 for Venlafaxine, and 32 for Placebo) with a total number of 6572 patients randomized. The previous meta-analyses have confirmed the efficacy for all SSRIs and Clomipramine in all age groups while for other drugs further evidence is required. In the context of this presentation preliminary results of the relative efficacy of each drug, using network meta-analysis techniques will also be reported.

Conclusions: Several antidepressants have established their efficacy and acceptability for the management of non-resistant OCD. The major weakness of the literature so far is that head to head comparisons between antidepressants are few and therefore it is difficult to establish a clear hierarchy of the efficacy and acceptability of the various agents. This gap in the present literature will be filled by the present review.

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