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Naltrexone for Opioid dependence: Oral, Implantable and Injectable

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Primary Purpose: The presentation will review results of five randomized double-blind placebo controlled randomized clinical trials of different drug formulations of naltrexone we have been doing within the last 12 years: Oral, implantable and injectable.

Experimental design:

1st study: Double blind placebo controlled randomized clinical trial of oral naltrexone vs placebo. 2nd study: Four cell double blind double dummy placebo controlled randomized clinical trial of combination of naltrexone with fluoxetine vs. naltrexone, fluoxetine and double placebo. 3rd study: Four cell double blind double dummy placebo controlled randomized clinical trial of combination of naltrexone with guanfacine vs. naltrexone, guanfacine and double placebo. 4th study: Three cell double blind double dummy placebo controlled randomized clinical trial of naltrexone implant vs. oral naltrexone and double placebo (oral and implantable). 5th study: Double blind placebo controlled randomized clinical trial of injectable naltrexone vs. placebo.

Summary of results: Oral naltrexone in Russia is more effective for relapse prevention and abstinence stabilization than placebo basically due to family involvement in the control of compliance. Combining naltrexone with

antidepressants or guanfacine does not improve outcome significantly. Long acting sustained release naltrexone formulations (injectable and implantable) are substantially more effective than oral naltrexone or placebo for relapse prevention in opiate addicts as they make control of compliance easier.

Conclusion: Extended release formulations of naltrexone are the most effective abstinence-oriented pharmacotherapies for opiate dependence.

Speaker Biography

Evgeny Krupitsky is a vice director for Research and a Chief of the Department of Addictions at V.M. Bekhterev National Medical Research Center of Psychiatry and Neurology in St.-Petersburg, and a Chief of the Laboratory of Clinical Psychopharmacology of Addictions at St. Petersburg State Pavlov Medical University, Russia. Since 2006 he also holds a position of Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania. Major focus of his research is pharmacotherapy of drug and alcohol dependence. He received several national and international awards including European College of Neuropsychopharmacology Fellowship Award (1997), Heffter Research Institute Award for Outstanding Research in Hallucinogens (2000), National Institute Drug Abuse of National Institute of Health (USA) Award for Excellence in International Leadership (2010), and Galen Prize (Russia) (2016).

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