

# HTA-SYMBAD – Study of Mirtazapine or carbamazepine for Agitation in Dementia

<https://www.neurodegenerationresearch.eu/survey/hta-symbad-%c2%96-study-of-mirtazapine-or-carbamazepine-for-agitation-in-dementia/>

## Principal Investigators

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### Country

United Kingdom

## Title of project or programme

HTA-SYMBAD – Study of Mirtazapine or carbamazepine for Agitation in Dementia

## Source of funding information

NIHR

## Total sum awarded (Euro)

€ 2,019,862

## Start date of award

01/12/2015

## Total duration of award in years

3.2

## The project/programme is most relevant to:

Alzheimer's disease & other dementias

## Keywords

### Research Abstract

DESIGN Pragmatic multi-centre double-blind placebo-controlled RCT of the clinical and cost-effectiveness of mirtazapine or carbamazepine (all with usual care) at 6/12/26/52w on agitated behaviours in dementia. SETTING Community in 8 regional centres in England. TARGET POPULATION People with Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and agitated behaviours >4 weeks duration which have not responded to non-drug treatment.[1] INCLUSION/EXCLUSION

**CRITERIA** Pragmatic trial, minimising exclusions to maximise generalisability. Inclusion: probable or possible NINDS/ADRDA Alzheimer's Disease; agitated behaviours duration >4 weeks which have not responded to the DH/AS algorithm; Cohen Mansfield Agitation Inventory (CMAI) score 45+. Exclusion: current antidepressants, anticonvulsants or antipsychotics; case too critical for randomisation; no informant to give collateral information. **HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES BEING ASSESSED** Experimental: Either (i) mirtazapine or (ii) carbamazepine, both with usual clinical care. Control: placebo with usual clinical care. **MEASUREMENT OF COSTS AND OUTCOMES** Patients and carers interviewed by research worker (RW) at 0,6&12w: Primary: (i) Agitated behaviours in dementia– CMAI. Secondary – person with dementia: (ii) Costs– Client Service Receipt Inventory (CSRI) and nationally representative unit costs;(iii) Quality of life – disease-specific-DEM-QOL-Proxy and generic- EQ-5D; (iv) cognitive impairment– sMMSE; (v) Broad Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms in Dementia (BPSD)- NPI; (vi) adherence, adverse events, concomitant medication/changes, withdrawal. Secondary – carer: (vii) carer mental health– GHQ-12; (viii) carer quality of life– EQ-5D; (ix) carer burden– short form Zarit CBI; (x) carer sleep. Long term outcomes: telephone interviews at 26&52w measuring CMAI, treatment status, institutionalisation and death. Primary analyses will compare mirtazapine or carbamazepine with placebo on CMAI score change 12 weeks post randomisation. Analyses of clinical effectiveness will be pragmatic using linear mixed modelling, based on an ITT sample on all available follow-up data from all randomized patients controlling for baseline levels of agitation and centre. Secondary analyses will compare all groups and cost-effectiveness. **SAMPLE SIZE** An overall sample of 400 (randomised 1:1:1) provides 90% power using 2-sided 5% significance tests to detect a drug v placebo mean difference in CMAI score at 12 weeks of 6 equating to an effect size of  $d=0.4$  (assuming a common standard deviation of 15) or a clinically significant 30% decrease in CMAI. With a realistic 15% attrition, we require a target sample of 470 (around 156 per arm). **PROJECT TIMETABLES INCLUDING RECRUITMENT RATE** 8 centres will each recruit 59 patients over 24 months. -6 to 0m trial approvals sought 1-6m trial systems set up 5-6m training RWs, centres set up and priming -6-6m production of trial medication and matching placebo 7-33m recruitment of patients, randomisation 8-36m follow-up interviews (6 and 12w), report preparation 30-39m final analyses and report writing, study closeout 10-45m collection of supplementary long term (24/52w) outcome data 40-48m analysis and report preparations on long term outcome data] **EXPERTISE IN TEAM** A broad, experienced multidisciplinary team experienced in dementia, clinical trials in dementia, statistics, health economics, implementation, policy and service user/carers perspectives.

## **Lay Summary**

**Further information available at:**

### **Types:**

Investments > €500k

### **Member States:**

United Kingdom

### **Diseases:**

Alzheimer's disease & other dementias

### **Years:**

2016

### **Database Categories:**

N/A

**Database Tags:**

N/A