**Aripiprazole Reduces Severity of Tics in Children With Tourette’s Disorder**

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NEW ROCHELLE, NY -- July 21, 2016 -- A meta-analysis of clinical trials evaluating the effectiveness of aripiprazole for the treatment of Tourette's disorder (TD) in children and adolescents showed a significantly greater overall improvement in total tics and tic severity from pre-treatment to post-treatment for patients receiving aripiprazole compared with placebo.

The drug was safe, with drowsiness, nausea, and headache being the most common adverse effects, according to the study published in Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology.

Yueying Liu, MD, Department of Pediatrics, Affiliated Hospital, Jiangnan University, Jiangsu, China, and colleagues searched for clinical trials that investigated the effect of aripiprazole in children and adolescents with TD in PubMed and Web of Science.

The outcomes of interest comprised the Yale Global Tic Severity Score (YGTSS) total tic scores and the Clinical Global Impressions Scale for Tic Severity (CGI-S) scores. The pooled effect size (ES) was calculated to assess the effectiveness of aripiprazole in children and adolescents with TD.

Ten studies were retrieved from 122 citations for the analysis, and in total, 302 patients (mean age, 11.6 years; median follow-up, 9 weeks) were included in the analysis.

Results showed significantly greater improvement in the mean change in the YGTSS total tic scores (ES = -1.99; P = 0.01) and the mean CGI-S scores (ES = -2.34; P = .001) from pre-treatment to post-treatment.

Adverse events were reported in 9 trials. Drowsiness (28.5%), nausea (20.2%), and headache (13.8%) were the most common adverse events.

“Treatment of children with Tourette's remains challenging for many clinicians,” said Harold S. Koplewicz, MD, Child Mind Institute, New York, New York. “This study highlights the effectiveness of aripiprazole for this group of patients.”

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