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Donepezil effects on mood in patients with schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder.

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Abstract

Donepezil, 5 mg/d for 6 wk then 10 mg/d for 6 wk, and placebo daily for 12 wk in a double-blind cross-over paradigm, was added to the therapeutic regimen of **13 patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorders**, clinically stable on atypical antipsychotic medications. **Patients** had varying degrees of depressive symptoms, ranging from no depression to clinically significant depression. There was no worsening or induction of depression in individual **patients** or the group as a whole. In addition there was a statistically significant antidepressant effect in the group as a whole during the **donepezil** condition and a clinically significant antidepressant effect in the **patients** with clinically significant depressive symptoms, although there were not enough depressed **patients** in the group to conclude that **donepezil** may have antidepressant **effects**. Thus, in this study, **donepezil** did not induce or worsen depressive symptoms in schizophrenic and **schizoaffective disorder patients**.

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