

Clinical Trial Protocol

Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

09 Jun 2026

Comparison of the efficacy of Cuscuta Chinensis versus Fluoxetine on depression in cases with major depression

Protocol summary

Summary

The aim of this study is to compare the efficiency of Cuscuta Chinensis with current antidepressant drugs (fluoxetine) in treatment of mild to moderate depression disorder. Sampling will be done among patients over 18 years old with the diagnosis of depression confirmed with 2 psychiatrists based on DSM5 and Beck criteria. The main Exclusion criteria is other underlying psychological disorder like Schizophrenia, schizoaffective, bipolar disorder, psychotic disorder, organic disorder make depression directly like hypothyroidism, pregnancy and lactation, addiction, patients with suicidal thought and the patients, cases who may need electronic convulsive therapy (ECT), being under the treatment of antidepressant on 1 month ago, chronic respiratory disease and past history of drug reaction to Cuscuta. This study is a randomized controlled trial. The intervention and control group receive one herbal drug and the current antidepressant agent, respectively. The treatment of patients evaluate by Beck criteria every 2 weeks for 6 weeks. The duration of intervention is 6 weeks.

General information

Acronym

IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT2015060722584N1**

Registration date: **2015-09-07, 1394/06/16**

Registration timing: **retrospective**

Last update:

Update count: **0**

Registration date

2015-09-07, 1394/06/16

Registrant information

Name

Azade Kiani

Name of organization / entity

Shiraz University of Medical Science

Country

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

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Recruitment status

Recruitment complete

Funding source

Shiraz University of Medical Science

Expected recruitment start date

2015-04-22, 1394/02/02

Expected recruitment end date

2015-08-24, 1394/06/02

Actual recruitment start date

empty

Actual recruitment end date

empty

Trial completion date

empty

Scientific title

Comparison of the efficacy of Cuscuta Chinensis versus Fluoxetine on depression in cases with major depression

Public title

The efficacy of Cuscuta Chinensis on depression

Purpose

Treatment

Inclusion/Exclusion criteria

Inclusion: patients over 18 with the diagnosis of depression based on DSM5 and Beck criteria, patients with written informed consent. Exclusion: Other underlying psychological disorder like Schizophrenia, schizoaffective, bipolar disorder, psychotic disorder, organic disorder make depression directly like hypothyroidism, pregnancy lactation, addiction, patients

with suicidal thought and the patients. Who may need electronic convulsive therapy (ECT), being under the treatment of antidepressant on 1 month ago, chronic respiratory disease and past history of drug reaction to Cuscuta.

Age

From **18 years** old to **80 years** old

Gender

Both

Phase

3

Groups that have been masked

No information

Sample size

Target sample size: **60**

Randomization (investigator's opinion)

Randomized

Randomization description

Blinding (investigator's opinion)

Double blinded

Blinding description

Placebo

Not used

Assignment

Parallel

Other design features

Double blind included patients and researchers

Secondary Ids

empty

Ethics committees

1

Ethics committee

Name of ethics committee

Ethics committee of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences

Street address

Vice chancellor for research, Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, Zand St.

City

Shiraz

Postal code

Approval date

2015-04-20, 1394/01/31

Ethics committee reference number

IR.SUMS.REC.1394.4

Health conditions studied

1

Description of health condition studied

Depression

ICD-10 code

F32

ICD-10 code description

Depressive episode

Primary outcomes

1

Description

Depression

Timepoint

baseline , after intervention on second,4th and 6th week

Method of measurement

Beck depression inventory

Secondary outcomes

1

Description

Side effect like unusual drug reaction, GI discomfort

Timepoint

During the clinical trial specially on second,4th and 6th week

Method of measurement

By asking the patients

Intervention groups

1

Description

500 mg powder of Fluoxetine (Exir) capsules twice in day for 6 weeks

Category

Treatment - Drugs

2

Description

500mg Cuscuta capsule twice in day for 6 weeks

Category

Treatment - Drugs

Recruitment centers

1

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

clinic of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Azade kiani

Street address

Faculty of Iranian Traditional Medicine , Faculty of Medicine, Setad

City

Shiraz

Sponsors / Funding sources

1

Sponsor

Name of organization / entity

Shiraz university of medical science

Full name of responsible person

Basir hashemi

Street address

Vice chancellor for research, Shiraz University of
Medical Science, zand St.

City

Shiraz

Grant name

Grant code / Reference number

**Is the source of funding the same sponsor
organization/entity?**

Yes

Title of funding source

Shiraz university of medical science

Proportion provided by this source

100

Public or private sector

empty

Domestic or foreign origin

empty

Category of foreign source of funding

empty

Country of origin

Type of organization providing the funding

empty

Person responsible for general inquiries

Contact

Name of organization / entity

Shiraz University of Medical Science

Full name of responsible person

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Position

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Other areas of specialty/work

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Sharing plan

Deidentified Individual Participant Data Set (IPD)

empty

Study Protocol

empty

Statistical Analysis Plan

empty

Informed Consent Form

empty

Clinical Study Report

empty

Analytic Code

empty

Data Dictionary

empty