

Clinical Trial Protocol

Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

30 May 2026

Study of the efficacy and safety of varenicline as an adjuvant to antipsychotics in patients with schizophrenia on cognitive impairment : A randomized control trial

Protocol summary

Study aim

Study of the efficacy and safety of varenicline as an adjuvant to antipsychotics in patients with schizophrenia on cognitive impairment : A randomized control trial

Design

A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial, design of 96 patients with chronic schizophrenia at 2 months

Settings and conduct

Care centers in Mazandran province

Participants/Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Patients who are hospitalized in psychiatric centers of the province and are in the range of 18-65 years old. Patients who were diagnosed with schizophrenia based on DSM-5 criteria, got at least two years of anti-psychotic drug treatment but still show symptoms. Patients who are treated with anti-psychotics for at least one year and in the last month, the type and the dosage of anti-psychotics has remained permanent. If the patients receives mood stabilizer drugs and antidepressants with their anti-psychotic treatment, the type and the dosage of the drug will remain constant for one month before the study and during the study.

Intervention groups

Intervention group: treatment regimen with varenicline tablet 0.5 mg daily the first 3 days then 0.5mg bid from 4th day until 7th day and then 1mg varenicline at morning and 0.5 mg at night until 9th day and after 10th day, 1mg, bid until 2 months. Control group: treatment regimen with placebo tablets that are similar to varenicline tablets for odor, taste, size and color in the dose of varenicline administration.

Main outcome variables

Assessment of PANSS; BACS(brief assessment of cognition in schizophrenia; CGI-I; CGI-S; at baseline and at the end of each months. Assessment of safety by using weekly BARS, SAS and AIMS Scales.

General information

Reason for update

Acronym

IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT20101108005138N4**

Registration date: **2019-07-08, 1398/04/17**

Registration timing: **retrospective**

Last update: **2019-07-08, 1398/04/17**

Update count: **0**

Registration date

2019-07-08, 1398/04/17

Registrant information

Name

Abbas Masoudzadeh

Name of organization / entity

Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences

Country

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Phone

+98 15133241889

Email address

amasoudzadeh@mazums.ac.ir

Recruitment status

Recruitment complete

Funding source

Expected recruitment start date

2018-09-22, 1397/06/31

Expected recruitment end date

2019-01-19, 1397/10/29

Actual recruitment start date

empty

Actual recruitment end date

empty

Trial completion date

empty

Scientific title

Study of the efficacy and safety of varenicline as an adjuvant to antipsychotics in patients with schizophrenia on cognitive impairment : A randomized control trial

Public title

Evaluation of Varenicline on cognitive impairment in patient with schizophrenia

Purpose

Treatment

Inclusion/Exclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria:

Patients who are hospitalized in psychiatric centers of the province and are in the range of 18-65 years old. Patients who were diagnosed with schizophrenia based on DSM-5 criteria, got at least two years of anti-psychotic drug treatment but still show symptoms. Patients who are treated with anti-psychotics for at least one year and in the last month, the type and the dosage of anti-psychotics has remained permanent. If the patients receives mood stabilizer drugs and antidepressants with their anti-psychotic treatment, the type and the dosage of the drug will remain constant for one month before the study and during the study. Consent from patient's guardian.

Exclusion criteria:

Patients with suicidal thoughts and acute suicidal behavior, a history of suicidal thoughts or attempted suicide during the past year, patients with thoughts or attempts to harm themselves or others at the beginning of the study or 6 months before the study, serious illness, major depression during the last 12 months that requires treatment, a history of hospitalization due to the episode of major depression over the past 6 months. Patients who received ECT during the last 6 months. Patients who suffer from psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia or other psychiatric disorders' bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders such as panic disorder or obsessive-compulsive disorder, post traumatic stress disorder, eating disorder. Current or past (past 6 months) diagnosis, severe personality disorders that compromise the ability of participants to fulfill the study requirements Dependence or acute drug, substance or alcohol abuse in the past 12 months, except nicotine (DSM-5) or positive urine specimen testing at the beginning of the study Acute phase of the disease ((an increase of 20% in the total score of PANSS) criteria for assessing the positive and negative symptoms of schizophrenia) Sensitization to varenicline or other substances in the placebo Other treatments that can interfere with the results. for example quit smoking (bupropion, varicellin or nicotine), the use of varenicline and other medication less than 30 days before the study or during the study. patients treated with anticholinergic drugs (except bipyridine and trihexafenidil) based on ACB scale (26) and obtaining the history of the drugs patient used. Physical illness, mental retardation or other cognitive impairment and neurological disorders such as delirium dementia, uncontrolled bleeding, head injury, seizure disorder (other than the febrile type), and neurodegenerative diseases (such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease ,

Stroke, and multiple sclerosis), and severe cardiovascular or pertussocular ailments in the past 6 months, recent history of cancer (in the past 5 years), BMI less than 15 kg/m² or more than 38 kg/m² or weight more than 45.5 kg or any severe and unstable medical or psychiatric conditions and disorders. uncontrolled illnesses and patients with NMS. this information can be obtained through PMH.

Age

From **18 years** old to **65 years** old

Gender

Both

Phase

3

Groups that have been masked

- Participant
- Care provider
- Investigator
- Outcome assessor
- Data analyser

Sample size

Target sample size: **96**

Randomization (investigator's opinion)

Randomized

Randomization description

Based on random numbers and 1: 1 ratio in treatment group and control group.

Blinding (investigator's opinion)

Double blinded

Blinding description

varenicline and placebo tablets are completely similar in terms of color, size, smell and taste produced by a completely similar manufacturing and packagings. Patients were randomly tested in groups. Until the end of the study, no patient or study persons are aware of which drug the patient receives. And anybody other than those who are defective in the study is aware.

Placebo

Used

Assignment

Parallel

Other design features

Secondary Ids

empty

Ethics committees

1

Ethics committee

Name of ethics committee

Ethics Committee of Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences

Street address

Moallem street, Moallem square, Vice chancellor for research

City

Sari

Province

Mazandaran

Postal code

33971-48157

Approval date

2018-10-02, 1397/07/10

Ethics committee reference number

IR.MAZUMS.REC.1398.585

Health conditions studied**1****Description of health condition studied**

Schizophrenia with residual symptoms

ICD-10 code

F20.5

ICD-10 code description

Residual schizophrenia

Primary outcomes**1****Description**

Score of general, positive and negative symptoms with Positive and Negative Symptom Scale (PANSS)

Timepoint

At baseline and the end of each month

Method of measurement

Positive and Negative Symptom Scale (PANSS)

Secondary outcomes**1****Description**

Score of improvement in cognitive symptoms based on brief assesment of cognition in schizophrenia

Timepoint

At baseline and the end of each month

Method of measurement

Brief assessment of Cognition in schizophrenia

Intervention groups**1****Description**

Intervention group: treatment regimen with varenicline tablets begin with 0.5 mg at first 3 day and then increase to 0.5 mg bid at the second 3 days and then reach to 1mg at morning and 0.5 mg at night for the third 3 days and from the 10th day, 1mg bid until the end of 2nd month.

Category

Treatment - Drugs

2**Description**

Control group: treatment regimen with placebo tablets with the same protocol dose that use for varenicline. The placebo tablets are similar to varenicline tablets for odor, taste, size and color.

Category

Placebo

Recruitment centers**1****Recruitment center****Name of recruitment center**

Psychiatric care centers in Mazandaran province

Full name of responsible person

Abbas Masoudzadeh

Street address

Farvardin care center, Alivac, Farah Abad Blvd.

City

Sari

Province

Mazandaran

Postal code

33971-48157

Phone

+98 11 3354 2472

Email

masoudzadeh@yahoo.com

Sponsors / Funding sources**1****Sponsor****Name of organization / entity**

Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Ahmad Ali Enayati

Street address

Moallem street, Moallem square-Vice chancellor for research City Sari

City

Sari

Province

Mazandaran

Postal code

33971-48157

Phone

+98 11 3326 1245

Email

tmaae@liv.ac.uk

Grant name**Grant code / Reference number****Is the source of funding the same sponsor organization/entity?**

No

Title of funding source

Sari University of Medical Sciences

Proportion provided by this source

60

Public or private sector

Public

Domestic or foreign origin

Domestic

Category of foreign source of funding

empty

Country of origin**Type of organization providing the funding**

Academic

Person responsible for general inquiries**Contact****Name of organization / entity**

Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Abbas Masoudzadeh

Position

associate professor

Latest degree

Specialist

Other areas of specialty/work

Psychiatrics

Street address

20th Km Farahabad Road, Payambar Azam Academic Complex

City

Sari

Province

Mazandaran

Postal code

33971-48157

Phone

+98 11 3354 2472

Email

masoudzadeh@yahoo.com

Person responsible for scientific inquiries**Contact****Name of organization / entity**

Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Abbas Masoudzadeh

Position

associate professor

Latest degree

Specialist

Other areas of specialty/work

Psychiatrics

Street address

20th Km Farahabad Road, Payambar Azam Academic Complex

City

Sari

Province

Mazandaran

Postal code

33971-48157

Phone

+98 11 3354 2472

Email

masoudzadeh@yahoo.com

Person responsible for updating data**Contact****Name of organization / entity**

Mazandaran University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Abbas Masoudzadeh

Position

associate professor

Latest degree

Specialist

Other areas of specialty/work

Psychiatrics

Street address

20th Km Farahabad Road, Payambar Azam Academic Complex

City

Sari

Province

Mazandaran

Postal code

33971-48157

Phone

+98 911 151 3058

Email

masoudzadeh@yahoo.com

Sharing plan**Deidentified Individual Participant Data Set (IPD)**

No - There is not a plan to make this available

Justification/reason for indecision/not sharing IPD

I have not decided yet - its release plan is still unclear

Study Protocol

No - There is not a plan to make this available

Statistical Analysis Plan

No - There is not a plan to make this available

Informed Consent Form

No - There is not a plan to make this available

Clinical Study Report

No - There is not a plan to make this available

Analytic Code

No - There is not a plan to make this available

Data Dictionary

No - There is not a plan to make this available