

Clinical Trial Protocol

Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

11 Sep 2026

Comparison of Efficacy of Venlafaxine and Amitriptyline in Migraine Prophylaxis: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Protocol summary

Study aim

To compare the efficacy and safety of venlafaxine extended-release with amitriptyline for migraine prophylaxis in adults with episodic migraine.

Design

This was a prospective, single-center, open-label, parallel-group randomized controlled trial conducted at the Department of Neurology, Allied Hospital, Faisalabad, Pakistan. Eligible patients were randomized in a 1:1 ratio to receive either venlafaxine extended-release or amitriptyline for 12 weeks. Allocation was concealed using sealed opaque envelopes. Patients and treating physicians were not blinded because of different dosing schedules and expected adverse-effect profiles; however, endpoint assessment was performed by a clinician blinded to treatment allocation.

Settings and conduct

Department of Neurology, Allied Hospital, Faisalabad
City: Faisalabad Country: Pakistan

Participants/Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria: Adults aged 18 to 70 years; diagnosis of migraine according to International Headache Society criteria for at least 2 years; episodic migraine with 3 to 10 migraine attacks per month; ability to provide written informed consent. Exclusion criteria: Secondary headache disorders; major depression or psychiatric illness requiring medication; hypersensitivity to venlafaxine or amitriptyline; hepatic impairment; renal impairment; significant cardiac disease; pregnancy; lactation; concurrent monoamine oxidase inhibitor use; unwillingness to provide informed consent.

Intervention groups

Intervention Group 1 Group name: Venlafaxine group
Intervention Group 2 Group name: Amitriptyline group

Main outcome variables

Efficacy, defined as reduction in migraine severity by at least one grade on a 1 to 3 clinical severity scale compared with baseline.

General information

Reason for update

Acronym

VAM Trial

IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT20260630070026N1**

Registration date: **2026-07-07, 1405/04/16**

Registration timing: **retrospective**

Last update: **2026-07-07, 1405/04/16**

Update count: **0**

Registration date

2026-07-07, 1405/04/16

Registrant information

Name

Aasim Ali

Name of organization / entity

Allied Hospital Faisalabad

Country

Pakistan

Phone

+92 345 1129704

Email address

dr.aasimali1111@gmail.com

Recruitment status

Recruitment complete

Funding source

Expected recruitment start date

2025-08-01, 1404/05/10

Expected recruitment end date

2026-01-31, 1404/11/11

Actual recruitment start date

2025-08-01, 1404/05/10

Actual recruitment end date

2026-01-31, 1404/11/11

Trial completion date

2026-04-30, 1405/02/10

Scientific title

Comparison of Efficacy of Venlafaxine and Amitriptyline in Migraine Prophylaxis: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Public title

Venlafaxine versus amitriptyline for prevention of migraine

Purpose

Treatment

Inclusion/Exclusion criteria

Inclusion criteria:

Adults aged 18 to 70 years; diagnosis of migraine according to International Headache Society criteria for at least 2 years; Episodic migraine with 3 to 10 migraine attacks per month; ability to provide written informed consent.

Exclusion criteria:

Secondary headache disorders; major depression or psychiatric illness requiring medication; hypersensitivity to venlafaxine or amitriptyline; hepatic impairment; renal impairment; significant cardiac disease; pregnancy; lactation; concurrent monoamine oxidase inhibitor use; unwillingness to provide informed consent.

Age

From **18 years** old to **70 years** old

Gender

Both

Phase

4

Groups that have been masked

- Outcome assessor

Sample size

Target sample size: **126**

Actual sample size reached: **126**

Randomization (investigator's opinion)

Randomized

Randomization description

Eligible participants were randomized in a 1:1 ratio using a computer-generated random number table. Allocation was concealed in sealed opaque envelopes. Participants were assigned to Group A receiving venlafaxine extended-release or Group B receiving amitriptyline.

Blinding (investigator's opinion)

Single blinded

Blinding description

Blinding of participants and treating physicians was not feasible because venlafaxine and amitriptyline have different dosing schedules and adverse-effect profiles. However, outcome assessment was performed by a clinician who was blinded to treatment allocation.

Placebo

Not used

Assignment

Parallel

Other design features

Secondary Ids

empty

Ethics committees

1

Ethics committee

Name of ethics committee

Faisalabad Medical Univeristy

Street address

Sargodha Road

City

Faisalabad

Postal code

38000

Approval date

2025-07-28, 1404/05/06

Ethics committee reference number

48.ERC/FMU/2025-26/105

Health conditions studied

1

Description of health condition studied

Episodic migraine

ICD-10 code

G43.9

ICD-10 code description

Migraine, unspecified

Primary outcomes

1

Description

Efficacy, defined as reduction in migraine severity by at least one grade on a 1 to 3 clinical severity scale compared with baseline.

Timepoint

Baseline and 12 weeks after start of treatment

Method of measurement

Clinical migraine severity scale: 1 = mild, able to work; 2 = moderate, unable to work; 3 = severe, bedridden.

2

Description

Frequency of treatment-emergent adverse events.

Timepoint

Assessed during follow-up visits at week 4, week 8, and week 12.

Method of measurement

Clinical assessment and adverse-event reporting, graded according to CTCAE version 5.0.

Secondary outcomes

empty

Intervention groups

1

Description

Intervention group:

Category

Treatment - Drugs

2

Description

Intervention group:

Category

Treatment - Drugs

Recruitment centers

1

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Department of Neurology, Allied Hospital, Faisalabad

Full name of responsible person

Dr. Mansoor Ul Hassan

Street address

Sargodha Road

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Phone

+92 345 1129704

Email

dr.aasimali1111@gmail.com

Sponsors / Funding sources

1

Sponsor

Name of organization / entity

Faisalabad Medical University

Full name of responsible person

Dr. Aamir Shoukat

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mukeshsharmakumar95@gmail.com

Grant name

Grant code / Reference number

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

Yes

Title of funding source

Faisalabad Medical University

Proportion provided by this source

10

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

Faisalabad Medical University

Full name of responsible person

Aasim Ali

Position

Resident

Latest degree

Medical doctor

Other areas of specialty/work

Neurology

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Person responsible for scientific inquiries

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Person responsible for updating data

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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

Deidentified individual participant data will not be publicly shared because of participant confidentiality and because consent was not specifically obtained for public data sharing. Relevant study documents, including the study protocol and informed consent form, may be made available by the principal investigator on reasonable request and subject to institutional approval.

Study Protocol

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Statistical Analysis Plan

Not applicable

Informed Consent Form

No - There is not a plan to make this available

Clinical Study Report

Not applicable

Analytic Code

Not applicable

Data Dictionary

Not applicable