



MED-PSYCH

Effects of antidepressant medication on morbidity and mortality in depressed patients after myocardial infarction.

Taylor CB, Youngblood ME, Catellier D, Veith RC, Carney RM, Burg MM, Kaufmann PG, Shuster J, Mellman T, Blumenthal JA, Krishnan R, Jaffe AS; ENRICH Investigators.

Arch Gen Psychiatry. 2005 Jul;62:792-8.

Ninety-six of 446 (22%) patients with depression and history of myocardial infarction who took an antidepressant at any time during a mean 29 months of follow-up died or had another myocardial infarction versus 361 of 1388 (26%) similar patients who did not take an antidepressant during follow-up, such that, comparing those who had an event while taking an antidepressant versus while not taking an antidepressant, the adjusted hazard ratio was 0.6 (95%CI 0.5 to 0.8), in this observational study using a modified Hamilton Depression Rating Scale. See Table 2.

After adjusting for left ventricular dysfunction and previous myocardial infarction, depression's hazard ratio for death within 6 months of hospitalization for a myocardial infarction was 4.3 (95%CI 3.1 to 5.4) (*JAMA.* 1993 Oct 20;270:1819-25). There is insufficient evidence to determine the effect of psychological interventions on death or cardiac outcomes in coronary heart disease (*Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2004;(2):CD002902).

GERIATRICS

Statin use and the risk of incident dementia: the cardiovascular health study.

Rea TD, Breitner JC, Psaty BM, Fitzpatrick AL, Lopez OL, Newman AB, Hazzard WR, Zandi PP, Burke GL, Lyketsos CG, Bernick C, Kuller LH.

Arch Neurol. 2005 Jul;62:1047-51.

Thirty new cases of dementia per 1000 person-years were observed among individuals who had ever taken statins and an equivalent 32 new cases per 1000 person-years (adjusted hazard ratio 1.1, 95%CI 0.8 to 1.5) were observed in those never taking statins, without any differences in subgroups of Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, or both, in this community-based cohort study of 2798 individuals 65 years and older followed for a median 5 years and

assessed by National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Diseases and Stroke criteria and, for vascular dementia, State of California Alzheimer's Disease Diagnostic and Treatment Centers criteria. See Table 2.

An earlier case-control study of 1364 patient records showed an apparent connection between statins and reduced dementia (*Lancet.* 2000 Nov 11;356:1627-31). Donepezil provides some cognitive and behavioral benefit for patients with mild to severe Alzheimer's and the benefit can extend to one year (*Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2003;(3):CD001190).

CHILD

Paternal depression in the postnatal period and child development: a prospective population study.

Ramchandani P, Stein A, Evans J, O'Connor TG; ALSPAC study team.

Lancet. 2005 Jun 25;365:2201-5.

Seventeen percent of 303 children whose fathers were depressed when the children were 2 months old had emotional, conduct, or hyperactivity problems when they were 3.5 years old compared to 8.5% of 6727 (maternal depression-adjusted odds ratio 2.1, 95%CI 1.4 to 3.1) children whose fathers were not depressed postnatally, as assessed by the Edinburgh postnatal depression scale and maternal-rated Rutter revised preschool scales in this prospective cohort study. See Table 1.

Maternal postpartum depression prevalence has been estimated at 13%, with risk factors that include low social support and low social status (*International Rev Psychiatry.* 1996 Mar;8:37-54). The use of antidepressants for prophylaxis of postpartum depression is not supported by evidence (*Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2005 Apr 18;(2):CD004363).

ADHD

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder: a selective overview.

Biederman J.

Biol Psychiatry. 2005 Jun 1;57:1215-20.

The epidemiology, comorbidity, genetics, etiology, and neurobiology of childhood and adult ADHD are discussed.

One study showed a link between childhood ADHD and adult antisocial personality and substance use disorders, but not adult mood or anxiety disorders (*Arch Gen Psychiatry.* 1993 Jul;50:565-76). There is insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of family therapy for

children with ADHD (*Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2005 Apr 18;(2):CD005042).

SEX

Circulating androgen levels and self-reported sexual function in women.

Davis SR, Davison SL, Donath S, Bell RJ.

JAMA. 2005 Jul 6;294:91-6.

No clinically meaningful association was found between low Profile of Female Sexual Function domain scores and low serum total or free testosterone or androstenedione, whereas only a minority of 45- to 75-year-olds with serum DHEA sulfate below the 10th percentile were more likely to report reduced responsiveness (odds ratio 3.9, 95%CI 1.5 to 9.8) and a minority of 18- to 44-year-olds with low DHEA sulfate more likely to report reduced desire (OR 3.9 [1.3-11.7]), arousal (OR 6.4 [2.3-17.7]), or responsiveness (OR 6.6 [2.4-18.3]), in this population-based study of 1021 women analyzed by area under the ROC curve. See Table 4.

A small 3-month randomized controlled trial in women and men aged 40 to 70 showed a relationship between daily oral DHEA and self-reported improvement in physical and psychological well-being, without change in libido (*J Clin Endocrinol Metab.* 1994 Jun;78:1360-7). There is insufficient evidence to guide the treatment of vaginismus (*Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2003;(1):CD001760).

PAIN

An endocannabinoid mechanism for stress-induced analgesia.

Hohmann AG, Suplita RL, Bolton NM, Neely MH, Fegley D, Mangieri R, Krey JF, Walker JM, Holmes PV, Crystal JD, Duranti A, Tontini A, Mor M, Tarzia G, Piomelli D.

Nature. 2005 Jun 23;435:1108-12.

Non-opioid stress-induced analgesia, seen as delayed tail removal from a heat source after foot-shock stress in rats, was associated with increased levels of the cannabinoids 2-AG and anandamide in midbrain periaqueductal gray matter, with reduced analgesia in the presence of cannabinoid-1 (CB₁) receptor blockade and enhanced analgesia in the presence of inhibitors of cannabinoid-deactivating enzymes. See Figures 1 and 2.

The cannabinoids anandamide and PEA may produce analgesia by acting at peripheral CB₁ and CB₂ receptors at the site of tissue damage (*Nature.* 1998 Jul 16; 394:277-81). Cannabinoids have no proven efficacy for spasticity due to multiple sclerosis (*Cochrane*

Database Syst Rev. 2003;(4):CD001332), spinal cord injury (*Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2000;(2):CD001131), or ALS (*Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2004;(1):CD004156).

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Recognition and management of complications of new recreational drug use.

Ricaurte GA, McCann UD.

Lancet. 2005 Jun 18;365:2137-45.

The toxic effects of MDMA, ephedrine, GHB, and other club drugs are discussed. See the Table.

Deaths, hepatotoxicity, and traffic accidents have been attributed to acute effects of MDMA (*Lancet.* 1992 Aug 15;340:384-7). Skills-based programs in schools may reduce early drug use (*Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2005 Apr 18;(2):CD003020).

CONSCIOUSNESS

What is the function of the claustrum?

Crick FC, Koch C.

Phil Trans R Soc B. 2005 Jun 29

The claustrum binds together connections from most of the cortex and has widespread connections within itself, making it an ideal candidate for the seat of consciousness, according to this last paper written by Francis Crick. See Figure 3.

A review of the literature since 1986 shows the claustrum playing a role in sensorimotor integration (*Cell Mol Biol.* 2004 Sep;50:675-702). Neurobiology may never delineate the underpinnings of consciousness (*Neuroscience, 2ed.*).

HISTORY

Last-ditch medical therapy - revisiting lobotomy.

Lerner BH.

N Engl J Med. 2005 Jul 14;353:119-21.

The history of the lobotomy -- a procedure that earned its inventor the Nobel Prize -- is illustrative of medicine's approach to desperate circumstances, according to this editorial.

A CT study showed that leukotomized schizophrenic patients with a history of good psychiatric recovery had larger orbitofrontal lesions and greater hemispheric asymmetry of lesions compared to patients with moderate or no recovery (*Arch Neurol.* 1981 Jan;38:30-7). ECT may provide at least a short-term benefit to schizophrenic patients who have a limited response to antipsychotics (*Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2005 Apr 18;(2):CD000076).



UKE RESEARCH

TRAUMA

Trauma, Proximity, and Developmental Psychopathology: The Effects of War and Terrorism on Children.

Pine DS, Costello J, Masten A.

[Neuropsychopharmacology. 2005 Jul 13](#)

GERIATRICS

Hormone therapy does not affect depression severity in older women.

Goldstein KM, Harpole LH, Stechuchak KM, Coffman CJ, Bosworth HB, Steffens DC, Bastian LA.

[Am J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2005 Jul;13:616-23.](#)

PSYCHOLOGY

Thought suppression mediates the relationship between negative affect and borderline personality disorder symptoms.

Rosenthal MZ, Cheavens JS, Lejuez CW, Lynch TR.

[Behav Res Ther. 2005 Sep;43:1173-85.](#)

PHARMACOLOGY

Sex Differences in Antidepressant Response in Recent Antidepressant Clinical Trials.

Khan A, Brodhead AE, Schwartz KA, Kolts RL, Brown WA.

[J Clin Psychopharmacol. 2005 Aug;25:318-324.](#)

GENETICS

Genomic medicine: bringing biomarkers to clinical medicine.

Seo D, Ginsburg GS.

[Curr Opin Chem Biol. 2005 Jul 7](#)

BIOLOGY

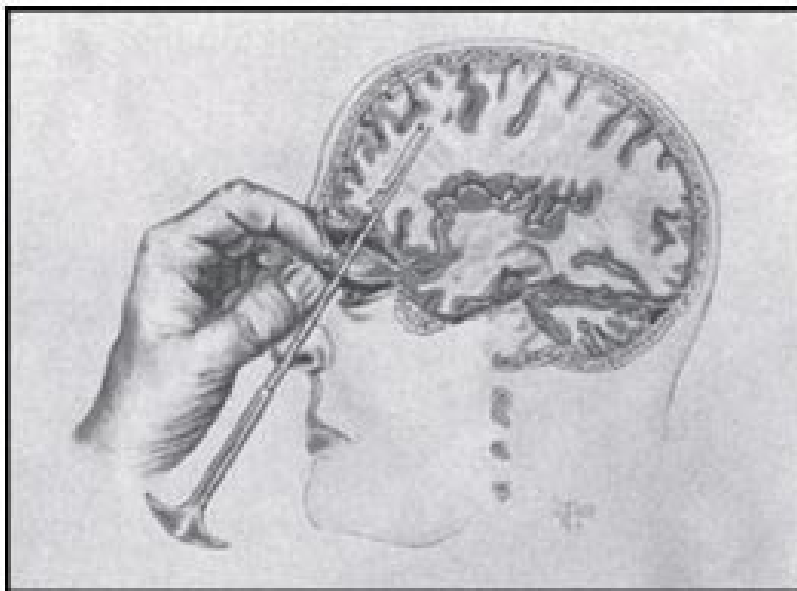
Regulation of Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone Secretion by Cannabinoids.

Gammon CM, Freeman GM Jr, Xie W, Petersen SL, Wetsel WC.

[Endocrinology. 2005 Jul 14](#)



FIGURE OF THE WEEK



[N Engl J Med. 2005 Jul 14;353:119-21.](#)