Moclobemide and imipramine in chronic depression (dysthymia): An international double-blind, placebo-controlled trial

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An international, multicenter, placebo-controlled study was undertaken to determine the safety and antidepressant efficacy of moclobemide, a new reversible inhibitor of monoamine oxidase A, and imipramine in the treatment of dysthymia (DSM-III-R). A total of 315 patients were enrolled and randomly assigned to an 8-week treatment in one of three groups (moclobemide, imipramine and placebo). Patients were male or female outpatients aged between 18 and 65 years meeting DSM III-R criteria for dysthymia, primary type, with late or early onset. Of the patients in each group 85% completed the 8-week treatment period. The percentage of patients who no longer fulfilled DSM-III-R symptom criteria at treatment end-point was significantly higher in the moclobemide (60%) and imipramine (49%) treatment groups than in the placebo group (22%). Differences to placebo were also statistically significant both for moclobemide and for imipramine on the other efficacy variables (i.e. Hamilton Rating Scale f