Table E11. Benefits and risks of second-generation antidepressants compared with combination of SGA and acupuncture

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| Outcomes | Anticipated Absolute Effectsa:  *Benefit and risk with Combination of SGA and Acupuncture* | Anticipated Absolute Effectsa (95% CI):  *Benefit and risk with SGA* | Relative Effect (95% CI) | Number of Participants  (Trials) | Strength of Evidence | Comments |
| **Response** Assessed with: HAM-D followup: mean 6 weeks | 71 per 100 | 58 per 100 (47 to71) | RR, 0. 82 (0.66 to 1.00) | 288 (2 trials24-26) | Lowb,c | Direct evidence limited to two studies comparing either fluoxetine or paroxetine with acupuncture plus SGA. |
| **Remission** Assessed with: HAM-D followup: mean 6 weeks | 25 per 100 | 23 per 100 (13 to 42) | RR, 0.92 (0.50 to 1.69) | 160 (1 trial25,26) | Lowd | Direct evidence limited to a single trial of paroxetine with combined acupuncture plus paroxetine. |
| **Quality of life** | NA | NA | NA | 0 (0 trials) | Insufficient | None |
| **Functional capacity** | NA | NA | NA | 0 (0 trials) | Insufficient | None |
| **Suicidal ideas or behaviors** Followup: mean 8 weeks | NA | NA | NA | 0 (0 trials) | Insufficient | None |
| **Serious adverse events** | NA | NA | NA | 0 (0 trials) | Insufficient | None |
| **Overall risk for adverse events**  Followup: mean 8 weeks | 4 per 100 | 9 per 100 (2 to 40) | RR, 2.0 (0.43 to 9.4) | 105 (1 trial26) | Lowd | None |
| **Overall discontinuation** Followup: mean 6 weeks | 9 per 100 | 10 per 100 (5 to 23) | RR, 1.11 (0.50 to 2.46) | 240 (2 trials24-26) | Lowd | None |
| **Discontinuation because of adverse events**  Followup: mean 6 weeks | 2 per 100 | 1 per 100 (0 to 10) | RR, 0.74 (0.11 to 4.9) | 240 (2 trials24,25) | Lowd | None |

a The risk in the intervention group (and its 95% CI) is based on the assumed risk in the comparison group and the relative effect of the intervention (and its 95% CI).

b Downgraded for imprecision: few events.

c Downgraded for inconsistency: large effect size differences between studies.

d Downgraded two steps for imprecision: very few events; 95% confidence interval crosses both thresholds of appreciable differences.

CI = confidence interval; HAM-D = Hamilton Depression Rating Scale; NA = not applicable; OIS = optimal information size; RR: Risk ratio; SGA = second-generation antidepressant