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-Dfollowup: 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-Dfollowup: 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