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Efficacy and Safety of Duloxetine in Patients with Neuropathic Pain

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Abstract: The present study was designed to find out the safety and efficacy of Duloxetine, a selective serotonin/norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor, for the treatment of neuropathic patients. In this study, 50 patients with peripheral neuropathic pain were selected. Assessment of pain using Visual Analogue Scale (VAS) was done on the day of data collection (Baseline), Review 1 (after 2 weeks) and Review 2 (after 4 weeks) of Duloxetine therapy (Proforma 2). Assessment of neuropathic pain using LANSS scale and DN4 Questionnaires was done on the day of data collection (Baseline), Review 1 (after 2 weeks) and Review 2 (after 4 weeks) of the Duloxetine therapy (Proforma 3 & 4). Adverse Effects for the study group were measured from the baseline till the review 2. There was a reduction in the VAS pain score in the patients from 6.46 (baseline) to 2.96 (Review 2) respectively. There was a reduction in the LANSS score in the patients from 12.34 (baseline) to 6.72 (Review 2) respectively. There was a reduction in the DN4 Questionnaire in the patients from 4.55 (baseline) to 2.37 (Review 2) respectively. Adverse reaction such as Somnolence (28 %), Giddiness (8 %) Insomnia (6 %) and null adverse effect (58 %) were reported with duloxetine. In our study, duloxetine has shown a better relief in neurological symptoms over a 1 month of follow-up. Study results suggest that Duloxetine in daily doses of 20 to 120 mg/day was effective and well tolerated in patients with different types of neuropathic pain, indicated through improved pain scores.
Keywords: Duloxetine, Neuropathic Pain, Efficacy and Safety.

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