

Is extended-release guanfacine effective in children with chronic tic disorders?

July 26 2017



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A new study assessed the safety, tolerability, and effectiveness of extended-release guanfacine in children 6-17 years of age who have chronic tic disorders including Tourette's disorder. Researchers designed the randomized trial to determine whether guanfacine would reduce tic severity compared to placebo and to identify the most common adverse effects of treatment, as described in an article published in *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology*.

Tanya Murphy, MD, Omar Rahman, and Camille Hanks, from University of South Florida, St. Petersburg; Thomas Fernandez, Allison Gavaletz, Caitlin Tillberg, Laura Ibanez Gomez, Denis Sukhodolsky, and Lily Katsoyich, MBA from Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT; Barbara Coffey, MD, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, NY; and Lawrence Scahill, PhD, Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, GA, coauthored the article entitled "Extended-Release Guanfacine Does Not Show a Large Effect on Tic Severity in Children with Chronic Tic Disorders."

The researchers reported only a small reduction in tic severity among the group of children who received extended-release guanfacine during the 8-week study period, and no significant difference between the effects of the drug compared to placebo. They described several common adverse effects, including fatigue, dry mouth, and headache.

"This is a disappointing but important finding for physicians treating patients with Tourette's disorder." says Harold S. Koplewicz, MD, editor in chief of the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology* and president of the Child Mind Institute in New York. "Clinicians are always looking for ways to alleviate disturbing symptoms for their patients. It is essential they are informed when a medication is not more effective than placebo."

More information: Tanya K. Murphy et al, Extended-Release

Guanfacine Does Not Show a Large Effect on Tic Severity in Children with Chronic Tic Disorders, *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology* (2017). [DOI: 10.1089/cap.2017.0024](https://doi.org/10.1089/cap.2017.0024)

Provided by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc

Citation: Is extended-release guanfacine effective in children with chronic tic disorders? (2017, July 26) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2017-07-extended-release-guanfacine-effective-children-chronic.html>

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