

Pharmacological treatment of mixed states

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Mixed states in bipolar disorder have been neglected, and the data concerning treatment of these conditions have been relatively obscure. To address this, we systematically reviewed published pharmacological treatment data for “mixed states/episodes” in mood disorders, including “with mixed features” in DSM-5. We searched PubMed, MEDLINE, The Cochrane Library, clinicaltrials.gov, and controlled-trials.com (with different combinations of the following keywords: “mixed states/features,” “bipolar,” “depressive symptoms/bipolar depression,” “manic symptoms,” “treatment,” “DSM-5”) through to October 2016. We applied a quality-of-evidence approach: first-degree evidence = randomized placebo-controlled studies of pharmacological interventions used as monotherapy; second-degree evidence = a similar design in the absence of a placebo or of a combination therapy as a comparative group; third-degree evidence = case reports, case series, and reviews of published studies. We found very few primary double-blind, placebo-controlled studies on the treatment of mixed states: the preponderance of available data derives from subgroup analysis performed on studies that originally involved manic patients. Future research should study the effects of treatments in mixed states defined using current criteria.

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Introduction

Mixed states present particular challenges to the treating clinician, and even the prevalence rate changes significantly among studies and in relation to the diagnostic criteria used. In the DSM-IV, a diagnosis of a mixed episode required simultaneously all criteria for a manic or a major depressive episode for a period of one week. Individuals infrequently meet these full criteria in clinical practice. The new DSM-5 “specifier” arguably adopts a broader approach toward mixed states. In the case of depressive episodes, there is a requirement for the presence of at least three

manic/hypomanic symptoms (including elevated mood, inflated self-esteem, decreased need for sleep, an increase in energy or goal-directed activities, etc.) occurring nearly every day during a major depressive episode; notably, overlap with symptoms of major depression is restricted. In the case of mania or hypomania, the specifier requires the presence of at least three symptoms of depression (including depressed mood, diminished interest or pleasure, slowed physical and emotional reaction, fatigue or loss of energy, and recurrent thoughts of death, etc.) occurring nearly everyday throughout the manic or hypomanic episode.

Mixed states are generally held to be less responsive to pharmacological treatment, and the response to mood stabilizers and other pharmacotherapies is poor.^{1,2} Antidepressants are generally avoided because of exacerbation of manic symptoms and a feared increased risk of suicidality, which is already high.³ However, the use of an atypical antipsychotic/antimanic agent in some bipolar disorder patients may decrease suicidal ideation.⁴ As a result, the choice of medication is usually based on individual factors and short-/long-term harms, safety, and tolerability parameters. The aim of this review is to summarize the pharmacological treatment of “mixed states/episodes” as

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defined by the DSM-III and the DSM-IV, and manic episodes “with mixed features” as defined in the DSM-5.

Methods

Searches

PubMed, MEDLINE, and The Cochrane Library were searched from January of 1980 to October of 2016 for all publications regarding treatment of mixed features as defined by the DSM-III and DSM-IV, and manic or depressive episodes “with mixed features” as defined in the DSM-5. The clinical trials registries in clinicaltrials.gov and controlled-trials.com were scrutinized for trials. The search was done using different combinations of the following keywords: “mixed states/features,” “bipolar disorder,” “depressive symptoms/bipolar depression,” “manic symptoms,” “treatment,” “DSM-5.” Related publications were hand-searched from the reference lists of every identified primary study.

Study selection

We followed the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA)⁵ guidelines (see Figure 1). Articles were selected for inclusion in this review if they met the following criteria: (1) inclusion

of a mixed-episode sample (or subgroup) was clearly stated; and (2) research findings for the mixed-episode sample (or subgroup) were presented. Nonoriginal studies (including editorials, book reviews, and letters to the editor) and studies without available full-text versions were excluded.

Quality assessment

First-degree studies included double-blind, placebo-controlled randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of pharmacological interventions used as monotherapy. Second-degree studies had a similar design without a placebo or combination therapy as a comparative group, while third-degree studies referred to any other type of published research.

Results

114 articles were assessed for eligibility, of which 54 investigated mixed states in bipolar disorder. However, while 36 of these studies included some number of patients experiencing a mixed episode at baseline, their focus was on pure mania, and the data from both groups were pooled and analyzed together. Several of these studies briefly reported some exploratory subgroup

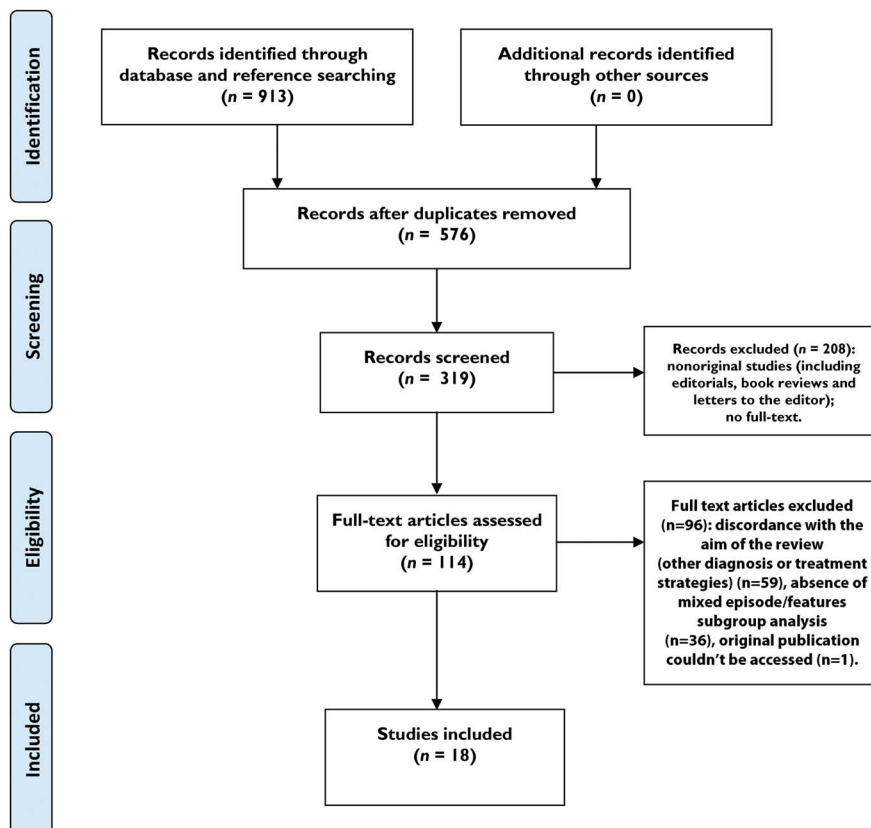


FIGURE 1. PRISMA flow diagram.

analysis or no significant effect of episode on treatment outcome when baseline episode (manic vs. mixed) was added as a covariate. These studies were excluded from the present review as the data reported are not sufficient to provide reliable estimates of treatment efficacy in patients with mixed states. Table 1 presents all the studies that were excluded at this final stage, organized by treatment. In addition, one article examining the effects of gabapentin as adjunctive treatment in mixed states was also excluded from this review as the full text of the publication could not be accessed.⁴²

Following the exclusion of these articles, there were 18 studies that met the inclusion criteria and investigated mixed states in bipolar disorder as a separate group. Of these, only 7 studies specifically examined pharmacotherapy for mixed states and the remaining 11 included both manic and mixed episode patients but reported treatment effect separately for each subgroup. These studies evaluated antipsychotics, mood stabilizers, and combination therapies for acute ($n=12$), maintenance treatment ($n=5$), or both ($n=1$) in patients with DSM-III and DSM-IV mixed episodes or DSM-5 mixed features. Pharmacological evidence for each class of medication is presented in Table 2, and the sections below are organized according to aim of treatment (acute vs. maintenance) and drug. The primary findings, degree of evidence, and sample size are also presented in Table 2.

Acute Phase Studies

Antipsychotic medication

We identified six studies that evaluated the efficacy of antipsychotic medication in patients with mixed states.

Two first-degree studies compared aripiprazole with placebo and found that aripiprazole significantly decreased manic symptoms.^{43,44} Further, Sachs *et al.*⁴⁴ reported a significant reduction in depressive symptoms among patients taking aripiprazole compared to placebo. Suppes *et al.*⁴³ also reported significantly higher response and remission rates (based on YMRS scores) among those treated with aripiprazole.

We identified two studies that examined the efficacy of ziprasidone.^{47,48} One first-degree evidence trial comparing ziprasidone with placebo in major depressive episodes with 2 or 3 concomitant manic symptoms found ziprasidone to be superior to placebo in improving depressive, but not manic symptoms.⁴⁷ One study⁴⁸ is also available from a pooled analysis of mixed patients with dysphoric mania previously enrolled in two similar placebo-controlled trials.^{30,31} This study found ziprasidone to be significantly superior to placebo in improving both manic and depressive symptoms. Response and remission rates were also significantly higher in the ziprasidone group.

In a first-degree placebo-controlled trial, McIntyre *et al.*⁴⁵ found that the effect of treatment with sublingual asenapine (compared to placebo) on manic symptoms only approached significance, while the effect was significantly greater in the group treated with olanzapine (compared to placebo).

In a recent first-degree trial, Suppes *et al.*⁴⁶ evaluated the efficacy of lurasidone in major depression with mixed features and found that lurasidone significantly improved both depressive and manic symptoms, and a significantly higher proportion of patients in the lurasidone group met a-priori response and remission criteria (number needed to treat [NNT] of 3 and 4, respectively).

Finally, in a case series by Suppes *et al.*⁴⁹ (not included in the table), patients were treated with clozapine in both the acute and maintenance phases. Seven subjects had treatment-resistant bipolar disorder and manic episodes associated with significant depressive symptoms. All patients displayed significant reductions in affective and psychotic symptoms when treated with clozapine alone or in combination with lithium, an antidepressant, or valproate.

Mood stabilizers

We found only one study that satisfied our inclusion criteria. This was a post-hoc analysis by Weisler *et al.*⁵⁰ of data from two studies^{51,52} that evaluated the efficacy of carbamazepine (extended-release capsules) versus placebo in patients with manic or mixed episodes. Carbamazepine significantly improved both manic and depressive symptoms in the subsample of mixed patients.

Combination therapy

We identified five first-degree trials that met our inclusion criteria. Three trials compared the efficacy of olanzapine in combination with a mood stabilizer (lithium or valproate) versus placebo and presented data for the mixed-patients group.⁵³⁻⁵⁵ Overall, the results from all three studies indicated that adjunctive olanzapine treatment is superior to mood stabilizer monotherapy in improving both depressive and manic symptoms. Conversely, one trial examining the efficacy of a olanzapine/fluoxetine combination for the treatment of mixed depression reported no statistically significant difference in depressive symptoms between patients who received both olanzapine and fluoxetine and those who received olanzapine alone.⁵⁶

Finally, Suppes *et al.*⁵⁷ assessed adjunctive quetiapine treatment (to any stable cooccurring treatment) in hypomanic patients experiencing mixed symptoms. Quetiapine adjunctive treatment was significantly more effective in improving depressive, but not hypomanic symptoms.

TABLE 1. List of publications that included mixed patients in the total sample, but did not report results for the mixed-only subgroup

Drug	Reference
Olanzapine	Tohen M, Sanger TM, McElroy SL, <i>et al.</i> Olanzapine versus placebo in the treatment of acute mania. Olanzapine HGEH Study Group. <i>Am J Psychiatry</i> . 1999; 156 (5): 702–709. ⁶
	Tohen M, Jacobs TG, Grundy SL, <i>et al.</i> Efficacy of olanzapine in acute bipolar mania: a double-blind, placebo-controlled study. The Olanzapine HGGW Study Group. <i>Arch Gen Psychiatry</i> . 2000; 57 (9): 841–849. ⁷
Olanzapine vs. risperidone	Novick D, Reed C, Haro JM, <i>et al.</i> Comparison of olanzapine and risperidone in the EMBLEM Study: translation of randomized controlled trial findings into clinical practice. <i>Int Clin Psychopharmacol</i> . 2010; 25 (5): 257–263. ⁸
	Perlis RH, Baker RW, Zarate CA Jr, <i>et al.</i> Olanzapine versus risperidone in the treatment of manic or mixed states in bipolar I disorder: a randomized, double-blind trial. <i>J Clin Psychiatry</i> . 2006; 67 (11): 1747–1753. ⁹
Olanzapine vs. haloperidol	Tohen M, Goldberg JF, Gonzalez-Pinto Arrillaga AM, <i>et al.</i> A 12-week, double-blind comparison of olanzapine vs. haloperidol in the treatment of acute mania. <i>Arch Gen Psychiatry</i> . 2003; 60 (12): 1218–1226. ¹⁰
Olanzapine vs. lithium	Tohen M, Greil W, Calabrese JR, <i>et al.</i> Olanzapine versus lithium in the maintenance treatment of bipolar disorder: a 12-month, randomized, double-blind, controlled clinical trial. <i>Am J Psychiatry</i> . 2005; 162 (7): 1281–1290. ¹¹
Olanzapine vs. asenapine	McIntyre RS, Cohen M, Zhao J, Alphas L, Macek TA, Panagides J. Asenapine versus olanzapine in acute mania: a double-blind extension study. <i>Bipolar Disord</i> . 2009; 11 (8): 815–826. ¹²
Olanzapine vs. valproate	Tohen M, Ketter TA, Zarate CA, <i>et al.</i> Olanzapine versus divalproex sodium for the treatment of acute mania and maintenance of remission: a 47-week study. <i>Am J Psychiatry</i> . 2003; 160 (7): 1263–1271. ¹³
Olanzapine + mood stabilizer	Tohen M, Chengappa KN, Suppes T, <i>et al.</i> Relapse prevention in bipolar I disorder: 18-month comparison of olanzapine plus mood stabiliser v. mood stabiliser alone. <i>Br J Psychiatry</i> . 2004; 184 : 337–345. ¹⁴
Quetiapine	Weister RH, Nolen WA, Neijber A, Hellqvist A, Paulsson B. Continuation of quetiapine versus switching to placebo or lithium for maintenance treatment of bipolar I disorder (Trial 144: a randomized controlled study). <i>J Clin Psychiatry</i> . 2011; 72 (11): 1452–1464. ¹⁵
Quetiapine + lithium/valproate	Vieta E, Suppes T, Eggens I, Persson I, Paulsson B, Brecher M. Efficacy and safety of quetiapine in combination with lithium or divalproex for maintenance of patients with bipolar I disorder (international trial 126). <i>J Affect Disord</i> . 2008; 109 (3): 251–263. ¹⁶
	Suppes T, Vieta E, Liu S, Brecher M, Paulsson B. Maintenance treatment for patients with bipolar I disorder: results from a North American study of quetiapine in combination with lithium or divalproex (trial 127). <i>Am J Psychiatry</i> . 2009; 166 (4): 476–488. ¹⁷
Aripiprazole	Keck PE Jr, Marcus R, Tourkodimitris S, <i>et al.</i> A placebo-controlled, double-blind study of the efficacy and safety of aripiprazole in patients with acute bipolar mania. <i>Am J Psychiatry</i> . 2003; 160 (9): 1651–1658. ¹⁸
	Keck PE, Orsulak PJ, Cutler AJ, <i>et al.</i> Aripiprazole monotherapy in the treatment of acute bipolar I mania: a randomized, double-blind, placebo- and lithium-controlled study. <i>J Affect Disord</i> . 2009; 112 (1–3): 36–49. ¹⁹
	Young AH, Oren DA, Lowy A, <i>et al.</i> Aripiprazole monotherapy in acute mania: 12-week randomised placebo- and haloperidol-controlled study. <i>Br J Psychiatry</i> . 2008; 194 (1) 40–48. ²⁰
	Keck PE Jr, Calabrese JR, McIntyre RS, <i>et al.</i> Aripiprazole monotherapy for maintenance therapy in bipolar I disorder: a 100-week, double-blind study versus placebo. <i>J Clin Psychiatry</i> . 2007; 68 (10): 1480–1491. ²¹
	Findling RL, Nyilas M, Forbes RA, <i>et al.</i> Acute treatment of pediatric bipolar I disorder, manic or mixed episode, with aripiprazole: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. <i>J Clin Psychiatry</i> . 2009; 70 (10): 1441–1451. ²²
Aripiprazole vs. haloperidol	Vieta E, Bourin M, Sanchez R, <i>et al.</i> Effectiveness of aripiprazole v. haloperidol in acute bipolar mania: double-blind, randomised, comparative 12-week trial. <i>Br J Psychiatry</i> . 2005; 187 : 235–242. ²³
Aripiprazole + valproate/lithium	Vieta E, T'Joen C, McQuade RD, <i>et al.</i> Efficacy of adjunctive aripiprazole to either valproate or lithium in bipolar mania patients partially nonresponsive to valproate/lithium monotherapy: a placebo-controlled study. <i>Am J Psychiatry</i> . 2008; 165 (10): 1316–1325. ²⁴
	Marcus R, Khan A, Rollin L, <i>et al.</i> Efficacy of aripiprazole adjunctive to lithium or valproate in the long-term treatment of patients with bipolar I disorder with an inadequate response to lithium or valproate monotherapy: a multicenter, double-blind, randomized study. <i>Bipolar Disord</i> . 2011; 13 (2): 133–144. ²⁵
	Vieta E, Owen R, Baudelet C, McQuade RD, Sanchez R, Marcus RN. Assessment of safety, tolerability and effectiveness of adjunctive aripiprazole to lithium/valproate in bipolar mania: a 46-week, open-label extension following a 6-week double-blind study. <i>Curr Med Res Opin</i> . 2010; 26 (6): 1485–1496. ²⁶
Asenapine	McIntyre RS, Cohen M, Zhao J, Alphas L, Macek TA, Panagides J. Asenapine for long-term treatment of bipolar disorder: a double-blind 40-week extension study. <i>J Affect Disord</i> . 2010; 126 (3): 358–365. ²⁷
	McIntyre RS, Cohen M, Zhao J, Alphas L, Macek TA, Panagides J. Asenapine in the treatment of acute mania in bipolar I disorder: a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. <i>J Affect Disord</i> . 2010; 122 (1–2): 27–38. ²⁸
Ziprasidone	Bowden CL, Vieta E, Ice KS, Schwartz JH, Wang PP, Versavel M. Ziprasidone plus a mood stabilizer in subjects with bipolar I disorder: a 6-month, randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind trial. <i>J Clin Psychiatry</i> . 2010; 71 (2): 130–137. ²⁹
	Keck PE Jr, Versiani M, Potkin S, West SA, Giller E, Ice K. Ziprasidone in the treatment of acute bipolar mania: a three-week, placebo-controlled, double-blind, randomized trial. <i>Am J Psychiatry</i> . 2003; 160 (4): 741–748. ³⁰
	Potkin SG, Keck PE Jr, Segal S, Ice K, English P. Ziprasidone in acute bipolar mania: a 21-day randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled replication trial. <i>J Clin Psychopharmacol</i> . 2005; 25 (4): 301–310. ³¹
Paliperidone	Vieta E, Nuamah IF, Lim P, <i>et al.</i> A randomized, placebo- and active-controlled study of paliperidone extended release for the treatment of acute manic and mixed episodes of bipolar I disorder. <i>Bipolar Disord</i> . 2010; 12 (3): 230–243. ³²
	Berwaerts J, Xu H, Nuamah I, Lim P, Hough D. Evaluation of the efficacy and safety of paliperidone extended-release in the treatment of acute mania: a randomized, double-blind, dose-response study. <i>J Affect Disord</i> . 2012; 136 (1–2): e51–e60. ³³
Risperidone	Khanna S, Vieta E, Lyons B, Grossman F, Eerdeken M, Kramer M. Risperidone in the treatment of acute mania: double-blind, placebo-controlled study. <i>Br J Psychiatry</i> . 2005; 187 : 229–234. ³⁴

TABLE 1: Continued

Cariprazine	Sachs GS, Greenberg WM, Starace A, <i>et al.</i> Cariprazine in the treatment of acute mania in bipolar I disorder: a double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase III trial. <i>J Affect Disorders</i> . 2015; 174 : 296–302. ³⁵ Durgam S, Starace A, Li D, <i>et al.</i> The efficacy and tolerability of cariprazine in acute mania associated with bipolar I disorder: a phase II trial. <i>Bipolar Disord</i> . 2015; 17 (1): 63–75. ³⁶ Calabrese JR, Keck PE Jr, Starace A, <i>et al.</i> Efficacy and safety of low- and high-dose cariprazine in acute and mixed mania associated with bipolar I disorder: a double-blind, placebo-controlled study. <i>J Clin Psychiatry</i> . 2015; 76 (3): 284–292. ³⁷
Valproate	Bowden CL, Swann AC, Calabrese JR, <i>et al.</i> A randomized, multicenter study of divalproex sodium extended release in the treatment of acute mania. <i>J Clin Psychiatry</i> . 2006; 67 (10): 1501–1510. ³⁸
Valproate vs. lithium	Freeman TW, Clothier JL, Pazzaglia P, Lessem MD, Swann AC. A double-blind comparison of valproate and lithium in the treatment of acute mania. <i>Am J Psychiatry</i> . 1992; 149 (1): 108–111. ³⁹
Lamotrigine + lithium	Bowden CL, Calabrese JR, Sachs G, <i>et al.</i> A placebo-controlled 18-month trial of lamotrigine and lithium maintenance treatment in recently manic or hypomanic patients with bipolar I disorder. <i>Arch Gen Psychiatry</i> . 2003; 60 (4): 392–400. ⁴⁰ Calabrese JR, Bowden CL, Sachs G, <i>et al.</i> A placebo-controlled 18-month trial of lamotrigine and lithium maintenance treatment in recently depressed patients with bipolar I disorder. <i>J Clin Psychiatry</i> . 2003; 64 (9): 1013–1024. ⁴¹

Long-Term (≥ 8 Weeks), Maintenance and Relapse Prevention Studies

Antipsychotic medication

We found one post-hoc analysis of a randomized placebo-controlled trial that compared olanzapine with placebo in mixed-episode patients for 6 to 12 weeks. The results indicated that olanzapine-treated patients had significantly lower rates of symptomatic relapse of any kind compared with placebo, with a reported NNT of 4 to prevent one episode of symptomatic relapse.^{58,59}

Mood stabilizers

Two first-degree trials met our inclusion criteria: one of valproate and one of carbamazepine. Bowden *et al.*⁶⁰ provided randomized maintenance treatment with valproate, lithium, or placebo to euphoric and dysphoric patients. Among the dysphoric patients, there were no statistically significant treatment-related differences on time to relapse nor on manic and depressive scores.

Ketter *et al.*⁶¹ examined the efficacy of carbamazepine extended-release capsules as maintenance therapy in bipolar patients with manic and mixed episodes in an open-label extension study of two double-blind placebo-controlled trials. Separate data analysis of the mixed subgroup was only reported for depressive symptoms, where carbamazepine treatment maintained the significant decrease of depressive symptoms observed at the end of the double-blind studies.

Combination therapy

One first-degree study of aripiprazole+lamotrigine combination therapy was found.⁶² Time to relapse in the mixed-state group was significantly longer in the aripiprazole+lamotrigine group compared to the placebo+lamotrigine group in this study.

Finally, in a 24-week open-label (second-degree) combination trial, Woo *et al.*⁶³ investigated the efficacy of risperidone in combination with mood stabilizers. A significant improvement from mean baseline was reported for both manic and depressive symptoms among mixed-episode patients.

Discussion

We found that the vast majority of published RCTs initially recruited both pure manic and mixed patients as defined by the DSM-IV classification system and that additional analyses were performed to identify effects in the subgroup of mixed patients only in a small proportion of these studies. This subgroup approach has several shortcomings. First, the resulting sample sizes are usually small, and thus “negative” trials could have been

TABLE 2. Studies evaluating pharmacological treatments for mixed states in bipolar disorder during the acute or long-term/maintenance phase.

A. ACUTE PHASE					
<i>Antipsychotic medication (n = 6)</i>					
Drug	Study	Sample – mixed state only	Primary Findings		Quality of evidence**
			Measure	Outcome*	
Aripiprazole	Suppes et al., 2008 ⁴³	Total n = 190	YMRS	Aripiprazole > placebo, p < 0.01	1
		Aripiprazole n = 93	Response rate (≥50% YMRS reduction)	Aripiprazole > placebo, p = 0.0006	
		Placebo n = 97	Remission rate (≤12 endpoint YMRS)	Aripiprazole > placebo, p = 0.0107	
	Sachs et al., 2006 ⁴⁴	Total n = 113	MADRS	Not reported for mixed state group.	1
		Aripiprazole n = 59	YMRS	Aripiprazole > placebo, p = 0.010	
		Placebo n = 54	MADRS	Aripiprazole > placebo, p = 0.041	
Asenapine	McIntyre et al., 2009 ⁴⁵	Total n = 146	YMRS	Asenapine > placebo, p = 0.05	1
		Asenapine n = 53		Olanzapine > placebo, p = 0.006	
		Olanzapine n = 58 Placebo n = 35	MADRS	Not reported for mixed state group.	
Lurasidone	Suppes et al., 2016 ⁴⁶	Total n = 209,	YMRS	Lurasidone > placebo, p < 0.001	1
		Lurasidone n = 109 Placebo n = 100	MADRS	Lurasidone > placebo, p < 0.001	
Ziprasidone	Patkar et al., 2012 ⁴⁷	Total n = 73	MRS	Ziprasidone = placebo	1
		Ziprasidone n = 35	MADRS	Ziprasidone > placebo, p < 0.0038	
		Placebo n = 38			
	Stahl et al., 2010 ⁴⁸	Total n = 179	MRS	Ziprasidone > placebo, p < 0.01	1
		Ziprasidone n = 124	HAM-D	Ziprasidone > placebo, p = 0.027	
		Placebo n = 55	Response rate (≥50% MRS reduction)	Ziprasidone > placebo, p = 0.02	
			Remission rate (≤10 endpoint MRS)	Ziprasidone > placebo, p = 0.01	
<i>Mood stabilisers (n = 1)</i>					
Drug	Study	Sample – mixed state only	Primary Findings		Quality of evidence**
			Measure	Outcome*	
Carbamazepine	Weisler et al., 2006 ⁵⁰ – post-hoc analysis ^{51, 52}	Total n = 147	YMRS	Carbamazepine > placebo, p < 0.01	1
		Carbamazepine n = 80 Placebo n = 67	HAMD	Carbamazepine > placebo, p < 0.05	
<i>Combination therapy (n = 5)</i>					
Drug	Study	Sample – mixed state only	Primary Findings		Quality of evidence**
			Measure	Outcome*	
Olanzapine + Valproate	Houston et al., 2009 ⁵³	Total n = 201,	YMRS	Olanzapine + Valproate > Placebo + Divalproex, p < 0.004	1
		Olanzapine + Valproate n = 100 Placebo + Valproate n = 101	HAMD	Olanzapine + Valproate > Placebo + Divalproex, p = 0.03	
Olanzapine + Valproate/Lithium	Tohen et al., 2002 ⁵⁴	Total n = 179	YMRS	Olanzapine + Valproate > Placebo + Valproate, p < 0.001	1
		Olanzapine + Valproate/Lithium n = 125		Olanzapine + Lithium = Placebo + Lithium	
		Placebo + Valproate/Lithium n = 54	HAMD	Olanzapine + any > Placebo + any, p < 0.001	
	Baker et al., 2004 ⁵⁵	Total n = 85	YMRS	Olanzapine + any > Placebo + any, p < 0.001	1
		Olanzapine + Valproate/Lithium n = 60	HAMD	Olanzapine + any > Placebo + any, p < 0.001	
		Placebo + Valproate/Lithium n = 25			

TABLE 2: Continued

Olanzapine + Fluoxetine	Benazzi et al., 2009 post hoc analysis ⁵⁶	Total n = 376 Olanzapine + Fluoxetine n = 37 Olanzapine n = 173 Placebo n = 166	Response rate ($\geq 50\%$ MADRS reduction & < 2 (hypo)manic symptoms)	Olanzapine + Fluoxetine = Olanzapine Olanzapine + Fluoxetine > Placebo, p = 0.0006 Olanzapine > Placebo, p = 0.014	1
Quetiapine + any co-occurring treatment	Suppes et al., 2013 ⁵⁷	Total n = 55 Quetiapine + any n = 30 Placebo + any n = 25	YMRS MADRS	Quetiapine = placebo Quetiapine > Placebo, p = 0.0138	1
B. LONGER TERM (≥ 8 WEEKS), MAINTENANCE AND RELAPSE PREVENTION STUDIES					
<i>Antipsychotic medication (n = 1)</i>					
Primary Findings					
Drug	Study	Sample – mixed state only	Measure	Outcome*	Quality of evidence**
Olanzapine	Tohen et al., 2009 Post hoc analysis ^{58,59}	Total n = 121 Olanzapine n = 76 Placebo n = 45	Time to relapse Incidence of relapse	Olanzapine > Placebo, p < 0.001 Olanzapine > Placebo, p < 0.001	1
<i>Mood stabilisers (n = 2)</i>					
Primary Findings					
Drug	Study	Sample – mixed state only	Measure	Outcome*	Quality of evidence**
Valproate	Bowden et al., 2005 ⁶⁰	Total n = 247 Valproate n = 104 Lithium n = 89 Placebo n = 54	MRS SADS-DSS Time to relapse	Valproate = placebo Valproate = placebo Valproate = placebo	1
Carbamazepine	Ketter et al., 2004 ⁶¹	Total n = 62 Carbamazepine n = not reported Placebo n = not reported	YMRS HAMD Time to relapse	Not reported for mixed state group. Carbamazepine > placebo, p = 0.0003 Not reported for mixed state group.	1
<i>Combination therapy (n = 2)</i>					
Primary Findings					
Drug	Study	Sample – mixed state only	Measure	Outcome*	Quality of evidence**
Aripiprazole + Lamotrigine	Carlson et al., 2012 ⁶²	Total n = 173 Aripiprazole + Lamotrigine n = 78 Placebo + Lamotrigine n = 95	Time to relapse	Aripiprazole + Lamotrigine > Placebo + Lamotrigine, p = 0.041	1
Risperidone + Mood stabiliser	Woo et al., 2009 ⁶³	Total n = 44 No placebo arm.	YMRS HAMD	Significant improvement from baseline, p < 0.0001 Significant improvement from baseline, p < 0.0001	2
* > indicates 'significantly superior'; = indicates 'no significant difference'; ** 1- first-degree evidence: randomised placebo controlled studies of pharmacological interventions used in monotherapy; 2- second-degree evidence: absence of a placebo group or of combination therapy; 3- third degree evidence: case reports, case series or reviews of published studies; HAMD- Hamilton Depression Rating Scale, MADRAS- Montgomery-Asberg Depression Rating Scale, MRS- Mania Rating Scale, SADS-DSS- Schedule for Affective Disorders and Schizophrenia-Depressive Syndrome Scale, YMRS- Young Mania Rating Scale.					

underpowered to detect existing differences between treatment groups. Second, the enrollment criteria in many of these studies were based on manic symptom severity alone, and there was no minimum depressive score cut-off, suggesting that the mixed patients enrolled

could be less severely ill than those seen in clinical practice or that they may not be representative of the full spectrum. Third, the categorical definition in the DSM-IV limits the number of patients identified, since it requires the co-occurrence of a full manic and a full depressive

episode. The new DSM-5 specifier, however, has the potential to address this latter issue, as it is likely that it will increase the detection and reporting of mixed states from both ends of the spectrum. A further major shortfall of the literature is that mixed depressive cases are not usually reported in depression RCTs. Additionally, there were only seven studies identified in the literature that exclusively examined pharmacotherapy for the mixed manic or depressive state. Due to the low number of studies, the variety of pharmacological interventions tested, the differences in methodology and in the aim of treatment (acute vs. maintenance), it is not possible to draw informative conclusions for clinical practice at the present point in time.

Some limitations of our work must be acknowledged. Although our search strategy was comprehensive, there is still the chance that relevant papers or studies have been missed. This review did not include books or clinical trials that looked at the effects of other nonpharmacological treatment modalities, such as psychosocial interventions or electroconvulsive therapy. We reported results distinguishing between manic and depressive outcomes when available, which may be more in line with the clinical need to understand to what extent the chosen medication is able to resolve both manic and depressive symptoms in mixed states or, conversely, to independently treat one or the other. Moreover, this is in line with the new “mixed-features” categorization of mood episodes in the DSM-5, as the distinction in efficacy based on the polarity of concomitant symptoms may be more applicable to the clinical setting.

In summary, the currently available evidence does not meet clinicians’ demands. Therefore, there is a clear need to conduct well-powered clinical trials specifically designed to enroll the full range of mixed features using current criteria.

Disclosures

Alessandro Cuomo, Viktoriya Nikolova, Nefize Yalin, and Danilo Arnone hereby declare that they do not have anything to disclose.

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