

VISN 5 MIRECC Research Abstract

Adjunctive Galantamine for Cognitive Impairments in Patients with Schizophrenia **Robert Buchanan, MD, Robert Conley, MD, Dwight Dickinson, PhD**

Purpose of the Study: Patients with schizophrenia may experience a broad range of neurocognitive difficulties such as problems with attention, eye-tracking, visual and verbal memory, working memory, processing speed, and sensory gating. It is often the case that schizophrenic patients taking new generation antipsychotics continue to experience problems with cognition (thinking, paying attention, memory).

Galantamine, a new FDA-approved medication, has been shown to improve cognitive function of patients with Alzheimer's disease. There is also evidence that galantamine may help eliminate positive symptoms (delusions, hallucinations, disorganized speech and/or behavior) in schizophrenic patients. In this study, galantamine will be used as an adjunctive agent (i.e., in addition to antipsychotic medication) to determine its effects on cognitive impairments in patient's with schizophrenia.

Procedures:

2 week Evaluation Phase:

- interview about illness and previous treatment history; undergo baseline symptom, medical, and side effect measures
- eye-movement tests, and neuropsychological tests (for memory, attention, and motor task skills)
- EKG (brainwave test)
- urine sample and about 3 tablespoons of blood will be drawn for lab tests
- pregnancy test for all women

This part of the study will require 3-4 visits (total time of 8 hours).

12 week Treatment Phase:

- Patient will be randomly assigned to either galantamine or placebo (non-drug sugar pill); only pharmacist will know who gets which one
- initially 8mg/day for first 4 weeks
- increase to 16 mg/day on 5th week
- increase to 24 mg/day on 9th week and continue until end of study
- remain on whatever medication you were taking before beginning the study.
- Every 2 weeks will administer BPRS, SANS, SAS, AIMS, and check symptoms, side effects, and vital signs (may take about 3-4 hours)
- Last week of study (week 12) will repeat lab test, EKG, and neuropsychological tests (again, up to 8 hours)