

Introduction

The Scientific Expert Meeting

Martin B. Keller, M.D., and Roger M. Pinder, Ph.D.

The Scientific Expert Meeting aimed to critically assess the progress made in the development of antidepressants and in particular the relevance of the dual-acting antidepressant mirtazapine in current clinical practice. This Supplement presents the proceedings from that meeting. Here, Jack M. Gorman, from the New York State Psychiatric Institute, New York, and Christopher Thompson, from the Department of Psychiatry, Royal South Hampshire Hospital, Southampton, England, present an overview of clinical trials of mirtazapine. Michael E. Thase, from the Department of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and the Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, Pittsburgh, Pa., and David J. Nutt, from the Pharmacology Unit, University of Bristol, School of Medical Sciences, Bristol, England, address the treatment of depressed patients presenting with insomnia or anxiety, respectively, and Robert M. A. Hirschfeld, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, reviews currently available treatment options for sexually active depressed patients. Importance of tolerability of antidepressants and its relation to compliance is highlighted by Steven P. Roose, also from the New York State Psychiatric Institute, New York, and use of antidepressants in indications other than major depression, by Peter Falkai, from the Department of Psychiatry, Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität, Bonn, Germany. Finally, Martin B. Keller, Department of Psychiatry and Human Behavior, Brown University, Providence, R.I., gives an overview of issues important to long-term treatment of depression. The most interesting questions raised at the meeting in discussion between participants and faculty members are also presented in this Supplement.

The Scientific Expert Meeting was held in Monte Carlo, Monaco, February 26–27, 1999, and sponsored by NV Organon.