

Neuropsychopharmacology of neuropsychiatric phenomena in neurodegenerative disorders: critical points and future directions

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The study on neuropsychiatric drugs of elderly people diagnosed with neurological disorders and comorbid neuropsychiatric phenomena may be economically disadvantageous or even of negative impact on drug reputation, due to high probability of non- or partial-response or side effects. In addition, neurochemical and neuroanatomical mechanisms associated with neuropsychiatric conditions may be even different from those associated with pure psychiatric disorders, despite the apparent phenomenological/clinical similarities. Therefore, studies on this issue may be disregarded from industry. In a previous review paper, we analyzed the rate of manuscript concerning medical investigation for antidepressants in neurodegenerative and neurovascular disorders is inadequate regarding the rate of comorbid depressive disorders. Here we will clarify reasons why innovative medical experimentation with new pharmacological and nutraceutical compounds must be encouraged, also in areas apparently of dubious economical advantage but of undoubted clinical relevance. Thus, the importance of the adoption of strategies to limit the detrimental effect of conflicts of interest in research must be enhanced.