

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

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Risk of Dementia Associated with Lithium or Valproic Acid

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RESULTS

	Lithium (n=58)	VPA (n=58)	Combination (n=58)	p-value
)	4 (6.9%)	4 (6.9%)	3 (5.2%)	0.91
tcom	<u>e</u> : Duratior	n of medication use	9	

	Dementia (n=7)	No Dementia (n=109)	p-value
of	36	51	0.60
	Dementia (n=7)	No Dementia (n=109)	p-value
of	44	34	0 55

Secondary outcome: Stratified by duration of use

Lithium P	-value
< 5 years (n=71) > 5 years (n=45)	
Dementia No Dementia Dementia No Dementia	0.70
5 (7%) 66 (93%) 2 (4.4%) 43 (95.6%)	
νρα	-value
< 5 years (n=79) > 5 years (n=37)	Variae
Dementia No Dementia Dementia No Dementia	0.68

DISCUSSION

Accuracy of diagnosis - discrepancy between what was written in the notes versus which ICD codes were charted for diagnosis

• Difficulty in diagnosing bipolar disorder – almost 90% of patients were treated with antidepressant at some point in time

Only past psychiatric medications were collected, but did not specify which ones were concurrent to the study medication

No statistical significance in unmatched patient population either (p=0.6)

Average age of 61.6 years old may be too young to capture most patients who may eventually develop NCDs

Retrospective data – selection bias

Possible documentation error – diagnosis based on ICD record in CPRS and

Small sample size after matching patients

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results found in this study, there were no significant differences in the prevalence of dementia in bipolar patients who received at least 12 consecutive months of lithium, valproate, or both medications.