

ADVERSE EFFECTS OF AGOMELATINE: LITERATURE REVIEW

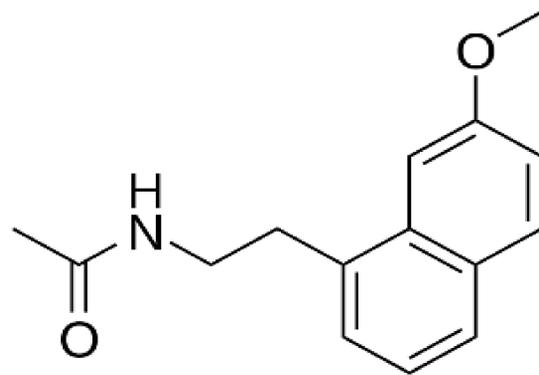
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INTRODUCTION

Depression is a common illness worldwide, with more than 300 million people affected. Agomelatine is a new antidepressant that has a novel mechanism of action, acting as an agonist for MT₁ and MT₂ melatonergic receptors and as a 5-HT_{2c} receptor antagonist. The safety profile of a drug is directly related to its adverse effects.



OBJECTIVES

The aim of this work was to perform a literature review on the adverse effects of agomelatine.

METHODS

A literature review on the adverse effects of agomelatine was carried out through the search of scientific articles published between the years 2009 and 2017 in the Medline and Lilacs databases as well in the electronic library ScienceDirect. The descriptors used for the search, individually and in combination, were *agomelatine*, *adverse effects* and *toxicity*. The inclusion criteria were articles on the adverse effects, side effects and toxicity of agomelatine published within the established period, written in English, from which 20 articles were included and analyzed.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results showed that agomelatine can cause serious adverse reactions such as hepatotoxicity, reported in 13 articles, as well as a series of mild and moderate events such as somnolence (10), headache (10), nausea (7), fatigue (5), dizziness (5), gastrointestinal symptoms (4), dry mouth (3), diarrhea (3), nasopharyngitis (2), anxiety (2), back pain (1) and changes in the emotional process (1). One selected article reported finding no adverse effects.

CONCLUSION

Thus, although agomelatine has a proven therapeutic effect, it should only be used in patients under strict professional monitoring for its potential adverse effects.

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