**Supplementary Online Content**

**Appendix Table S1.** Dosage range considered for each included antidepressant agent.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Antidepressant Agent** | **Dosage range** |
| Sertraline | 50 mg – 200 mg |
| Paroxetine | 20 mg – 50 mg |
| Fluoxetine | 10 mg- 80 mg |
| Citalopram | 20 mg- 40 mg |
| Escitalopram | 10 mg – 20 mg |
| Venlafaxine | 75 mg – 225 mg |
| Duloxetine | 60 mg – 120 mg |
| Mirtazapine | 15 mg- 60 mg |
| Bupropion | 150 mg – 450 mg |

**Appendix Table S2**. Verbatim qualitative data excerpts on the most representative comments for each subjective effect.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Effect** | **Typical Comments** |
| *Sedation* | “Initially I couldn’t keep my eyes open. Would have to force myself to get up. Then I felt no energy, no motivation. Tired all the time and would yawn constantly” (P 67)  “Very difficult to get out of bed in the mornings and I feel very sleepy all day. Nodding out at my desk at work. It has helped with the anxiety but leaves me in a zombie-like state all day.” (M227)  “Always tired, yawned all the time.”(D406) |
| *Emotional blunting* | “I have no “real” emotions” (S236)  “I wasn’t sad, but I wasn’t happy either” (S308)  “ I do feel a bit zombie-ish sometimes” (P10)  “anesthetic effect on my emotions” (P93)  “may mood was not good or bad just did not care about anything, it just made me feel null, life passing in front of my eyes with no feelings good or bad” (M221)  “Not happy, not sad, just bored and uninterested” (E537)  “I get scared when someone gives me a present because I won’t seem happy enough, when pets die I don’t care or seem sad” |
| *Emotional hyperreactivity* | “Tears forming or crying at things I normally wouldn’t cry about” (B356)  “Hostile, angry, irritable. It was awful and I hope I never feel like that again in my life. I snapped on my kids and my husband” (P120)  “found myself getting irritable and moody” (V326) |
| *Withdrawal symptoms* | “Once you start this, it’s going to be difficult to get off of it…. I forget to take that pill; I will get chest pains and tachycardia. It’s like adult candy, a pill that is poison rather than sweets.” (S269)  “Please talk to your doctor about the withdrawal side effects before you start.” (V343)  If I had known the withdrawals from this drug was this bad. I would never have taken it.” (V184) |
| *Suicidal Thoughts* | “I have never cut myself before I started taking sertraline.” (S66)  “It made me get so bad that I had to go to the hospital for being suicidal.” (F260)  “Did not help my depression and caused me to have suicidal thoughts” (D90) |
| *Sexual effects* | “Decreased libido. Difficulty or inability to achieve an orgasm” (P165)  “the inability to experience any sexual satisfaction is depressing me even more than the severe” (E98)  “Loss of most sexual feeling, complete loss of orgasm (P10) |
| *Cognitive effects* | “ lack of concentration; fuzzy head” (F188)  “Overall feeling of “numb brain” as I call it. Trouble concentrating. Poor short term memory.” (E344)  “ foggy brain, cannot focus, cannot concentrate” (E33)  “My inability to think correctly lead me to get frustrated when I tried to get work done, and also lead me to being more rash with decision making” (V200) |

In parenthesis, the randomly assigned post number corresponding to the comment.

**Appendix Table S3. Impact of covariates on emotional side-effects**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | β coefficient | 95% CI | p-value |
| **Outcome: Hyper-reactivity** | | | |
| **Demographics** | | | |
| Age (per 10 yrs.) | -0.01 | -0.04 – 0.01 | 0.36 |
| Gender | -0.05 | -0.13 – 0.02 | 0.17 |
| **Diagnosis** | | | |
| Unipolar depression | 0.09 | 0.00 – 0.17 | 0.01 |
| Bipolar disorder | 0.25 | 0.07 – 0.41 | < 0.01 |
| Anxiety disorder | -0.03 | -0.10 – 0.04 | 0.36 |
| Pain conditions | -0.05 | -0.20 – 0.10 | 0.51 |
| Obsessive-compulsive disorder | 0.00 | -0.11 – 0.16 | 0.76 |
| **Proxies for psychiatric severity** | | | |
| Duration of treatment (per 1yr) | -0.01 | -0.02 - 0.00 | 0.03 |
| **Outcome: Emotional blunting** | | | |
| **Demographics** | | | |
| Age (per 10yr) | -0.04 | -0.07 – 0.00 | 0.01 |
| Gender | -0.05 | -0.13 – 0.03 | 0.19 |
| **Diagnosis** | | | |
| Unipolar depression | 0.00 | -0.08 – 0.08 | 0.96 |
| Bipolar disorder | 0.03 | -0.15 – 0.02 | 0.77 |
| Anxiety disorder | 0.02 | -0.05 – 0.09 | 0.55 |
| Pain conditions | 0.06 | -0.10 – 0.02 | 0.45 |
| Obsessive-compulsive disorder | 0.02 | -0.12 – 0.17 | 0.76 |
| **Proxies for psychiatric severity** | | | |
| Duration of treatment (days) | 0.01 | 0.00 – 0.02 | 0.26 |
| **Outcome: Cognitive disturbances** | | | |
| **Demographics** | | | |
| Age (yr) | -0.02 | -0.04 – 0.01 | 0.17 |
| Gender | 0.01 | -0.05 – 0.08 | 0.74 |
| **Diagnosis** | | | |
| Unipolar depression | -0.01 | -0.07 – 0.06 | 0.82 |
| Bipolar disorder | 0.15 | 0.00 – 0.30 | 0.04 |
| Anxiety disorder | 0.01 | -0.05 – 0.07 | 0.85 |
| Pain conditions | 0.15 | 0.02 – 0.28 | 0.02 |
| Obsessive-compulsive disorder | -0.04 | -0.16 – 0.07 | 0.46 |
| **Proxies for psychiatric severity** | | | |
| Duration of treatment (days) | 0.01 | 0.00 – 0.02 | 0.23 |