The Effectiveness of Bupropion in the Methamphetamines' Dependence Treatment: Randomized Double Blind Placebo Controlled Trial [Received-**/**/****, Accepted-**/**/****, Published-**/**/****]

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Abstract

Methamphetamines are synthetic stimulants that their abuse is growing. Certain medications to treat dependence on these substances have not been confirmed yet. In this study the efficacy of bupropion in the treatment of patients with methamphetamine dependence were studied. In this double-blind controlled clinical trial 50 methamphetamine-dependent patients treated in bupropion and placebo groups were studied. Amphetamine craving with visual analogue scale, methamphetamine dependence with the Addiction Severity Index and depression with the Beck Inventory were assessed. The first group received 300 mg bupropion in two divided doses and second group received placebo twice a day. Patients were examined for 12 weeks with urine testing for drug abuse. Also at weeks 4, 8 and 12 of treatment craving, severity of dependence and depression were examined. Mean Addiction Severity Index scales significantly decreased in intervention group compared to control group. Craving scores before and after treatment in Bupropion group were 77.4±8.93 and 54.24 ±10.12 and in placebo group were 76.64±9.46 and 67.56±10.73 respectively that decreased significantly bupropion group (p<0.001). Methamphetamine dependency treatment success rates was 52% in the bupropion group and 16% in the placebo group (p= 0.007). In this study it was found that bupropion significantly enhances the dependence of methamphetamine and increases the success rate of treatment.