

ADHD Screening Warranted in Pediatric OCD

BY HEIDI SPLETE
Senior Writer

More than 25% of children and adolescents with obsessive-compulsive disorder had comorbid attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder in a consecutive study of 94 patients, reported Dr. Gabriele Masi and her associates at the Scientific Institute of Child Neurology and Psychiatry in Calabrone, Pisa (Italy).

Overall, 88% of the 24 comorbid patients were male, and the average age of onset of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) was slightly higher among patients with comorbid attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Several disruptive behavior disorders—oppositional defiant disorder, bipolar disorder, and tic disorder—were significantly more common among comorbid patients.

The 3-year study included 65 males and 29 females aged 8-18 years. All of the pa-

tients were undergoing treatment for OCD with selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, such as fluoxetine and sertraline (Zoloft), but none was being treated for ADHD with psychostimulants (Compr. Psychiatry 2006;47:42-7).

In patients with comorbid ADHD, functional baseline impairment was higher, and improvement in symptoms after 6 months of follow-up was lower. Patients with co-occurring OCD-ADHD were more frequently male (88% vs. 62%). In

addition, patients with OCD and ADHD had higher rates of comorbid disorders, such as various anxiety disorders.

There were no significant differences between patients with and without comorbid ADHD with regard to OCD behaviors involving ordering, aggression, contamination, and hoarding.

The study results suggest a need for ADHD screening in all children and adolescents with OCD, the investigators wrote. ■

FIRST
IN A NOVEL
CLASS OF
SLEEP
AGENTS

NONSCHEDULED ROZEREM— ZERO

EVIDENCE OF ABUSE OR DEPENDENCE

Clinical studies show no evidence
of potential abuse,* dependence, or withdrawal

- **First and only**—nonscheduled prescription insomnia medication...not a controlled substance and approved for long-term use¹
- **First and only**—prescription insomnia medication that targets the normal sleep-wake cycle¹
- **First and only**—prescription insomnia medication with no evidence of abuse potential in clinical studies¹
- **First and only**—prescription insomnia medication that does not act by CNS depression¹
- **Promote sleep with Rozerem**—patients who took Rozerem fell asleep faster than those who took placebo¹

Please visit www.rozerem.com

*A randomized, single-center, double-blind, dose run-up study (N=6) and a single-center, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled crossover study (N=14) specifically assessed the abuse liability of Rozerem in patients with a history of substance abuse.²

Rozerem is indicated for the treatment of insomnia characterized by difficulty with sleep onset. Rozerem can be prescribed for long-term use. Rozerem should not be used in patients with hypersensitivity to any components of the formulation, severe hepatic impairment, or in combination with fluvoxamine. Failure of insomnia to remit after a reasonable period of time should be medically evaluated, as this may be the result of an unrecognized underlying medical disorder. Hypnotics should be administered with caution to patients exhibiting signs and symptoms of depression. Rozerem has not been studied in patients with severe sleep apnea, severe COPD, or in children or adolescents. The effects in these populations are unknown. Exercise caution if consuming alcohol in combination with Rozerem. Rozerem has been associated with decreased testosterone levels and increased prolactin levels. Health professionals should be mindful of any unexplained symptoms possibly associated with such changes in these hormone levels. Rozerem should not be taken with or immediately after a high-fat meal. Rozerem should be taken within 30 minutes before going to bed and activities confined to preparing for bed. The most common adverse events seen with Rozerem that had at least a 2% incidence difference from placebo were somnolence, dizziness, and fatigue.

Please see adjacent Brief Summary of Prescribing Information.

Rozerem[™]
ramelteon 8-mg tablets

Proven for sleep.
Nonscheduled for added safety.

Rozerem[™] is a trademark of Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited and used under license by Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America, Inc.