Clinical Trial Protocol
Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

08 Nov 2026

pioglitazone added to risperidone in the treatment of Autism: A double blind and placebo controlled trial

Protocol summary

Summary

The objective of this study is to assess the efficacy of Pioglitazone in the treatment of autism. Fifty children between the ages 3 and 12 years with a DSM IV clinical diagnosis of autistic disorder and who will be outpatients from a specialty clinic for children will be recruited. The children should present with a chief complaint of severely disruptive symptoms related to autistic disorder. Patients will be randomly allocated into Pioglitazone (30 mg/day) + Risperidone (1-2mg/day) or Placebo + Risperidone (1-2mg/day) for a 10-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled study. Patients will be assessed at baseline and after 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 weeks of starting medication. The primary outcome measure is the Aberrant Behavior Checklist-Community (ABC-C) Rating Scale (Irritibilityy subscale).

General information

Acronym

IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT201202281556N37**
Registration date: **2012-03-01, 1390/12/11**
Registration timing: **prospective**

Last update:
Update count: **0**

Registration date

2012-03-01, 1390/12/11

Registrant information

Name

Shahin Akhondzadeh

Name of organization / entity

Roozbeh Psychiatric Hospital, Tehran University of Medical Sciences

Country

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Phone

+98 21 5541 2222

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Recruitment status

Recruitment complete

Funding source

Tehran university of Medical Sciences

Expected recruitment start date

2012-03-15, 1390/12/25

Expected recruitment end date

2014-03-16, 1392/12/25

Actual recruitment start date

empty

Actual recruitment end date

empty

Trial completion date

empty

Scientific title

pioglitazone added to risperidone in the treatment of Autism: A double blind and placebo controlled trial

Public title

pioglitazone in the treatment of autism

Purpose

Treatment

Inclusion/Exclusion criteria

Inclusion Criteria: 1-DSM IV clinical diagnosis of autistic disorder, 2-children between the ages of 3 and 11 years ,3- presence of behavioral problems such as aggression, overactivity or repetitive behaviors (indication of treatment with risperidone) Exclusion Criteria:1-Presence of any active medical problem, 2-any diagnosis in Axis I and II except for mental retardation, 3-history of allergy to Amantadine,4- receiving any psychotropic medications during past two weeks prior to the trial, 5-presence of hepatic disease, 6-history of seizure

Age

From **3 years** old to **12 years** old

Gender
Both

Phase
2-3
Groups that have been masked
No information
Sample size
Target sample size: **40**
Randomization (investigator's opinion)
Randomized
Randomization description
Blinding (investigator's opinion)
Double blinded
Blinding description
Placebo
Used
Assignment
Parallel
Other design features

Secondary Ids

empty

Ethics committees

1

Ethics committee
Name of ethics committee
Ethics Committee of Tehran University of Medical Sciences
Street address
Keshvarz Blvd
City
Tehran
Postal code
Approval date
2012-02-20, 1390/12/01
Ethics committee reference number
16043

Health conditions studied

1

Description of health condition studied
Childhood autism
ICD-10 code
F84.0
ICD-10 code description
Childhood autism

Primary outcomes

1

Description
Severity of Autism
Timepoint
Baseline and weerks 2, 4, 6, 8, 10
Method of measurement
Aberrant Behavior Checklist-Community (ABC-C) Rating Scale (irritibility subscale)

Secondary outcomes

empty

Intervention groups

1

Description
Tablet Pioglitazone 30 mg/day+ Tablet Risperidon 1-2 mg/day as intervention for 10 weeks
Category
Treatment - Drugs

2

Description
Tablet Risperidone 1-2 mg/day +Capsule Placebo as control for 10 weeks
Category
Placebo

Recruitment centers

1

Recruitment center
Name of recruitment center
Roozbeh Hospital
Full name of responsible person
Dr. Shahin Akhondzadeh
Street address
South Kargar Sreeet, Roozbeh Hospital
City
Tehran

Sponsors / Funding sources

1

Sponsor
Name of organization / entity
Tehran University of Medical Sciences
Full name of responsible person
Prof. Akbar Fotouhi
Street address
Keshvarz Blvd
City
Tehran
Grant name
Grant code / Reference number
Is the source of funding the same sponsor organization/entity?
Yes
Title of funding source
Tehran University of Medical Sciences
Proportion provided by this source
100

Public or private sector
empty
Domestic or foreign origin
empty
Category of foreign source of funding
empty
Country of origin
Type of organization providing the funding
empty

Person responsible for general inquiries

Contact
Name of organization / entity
Tehran University of Medical Sciences
Full name of responsible person
Prof. Shahin Akhondzadeh
Position
Prof. of Clinical Psychopharmacology
Other areas of specialty/work
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Email
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Web page address

Sharing plan

Deidentified Individual Participant Data Set (IPD)
empty
Study Protocol
empty
Statistical Analysis Plan
empty
Informed Consent Form
empty
Clinical Study Report
empty
Analytic Code
empty
Data Dictionary
empty