

INTRODUCTION

Motivation deficit is a significant aspect of lack of improvement in patients with schizophrenia especially with predominant negative symptoms (PNS). Therefore, their improvement depends not only on symptoms reduction and better social functioning but also on patient engagement which is a key but less investigated aspect of successful treatment. Patient engagement consists of four major components i.e. social, emotional, cognitive and physical and can be characterized by 11 items (**Table 1**) of Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) [1].

STUDY OBJECTIVE

To investigate and compare patient engagement in PNS patients treated by cariprazine or risperidone and characterized by PANSS-11 total score.

METHODS

In this phase-3 study [2] patients suffering from PNS of schizophrenia (PANSS-FSNS \geq 24) were randomized to 26 weeks of treatment with either cariprazine or risperidone (target dose 4.5 and 4 mg/day, respectively). To compare the effects of the two drugs on patient engagement the PANSS-11 scale was used [1]. Change from baseline (CfB) on the selected items and PANSS-11 total score were analyzed using mixed model of repeated measures approach without correction for multiplicity.

Table 1 Items of patient engagement PANSS-11 total score

N1	Blunted affect
N2	Emotional withdrawal
N3	Poor rapport
N4	Passive/apathetic social withdrawal
N5	Difficulty in abstract thinking
N6	Lack of spontaneity and flow of conversation
G6	Depression
G7	Motor retardation
G13	Disturbance of volition
G15	Preoccupation
G16	Active social avoidance

Figure 1 Patient engagement over time based on PANSS-11 total score change

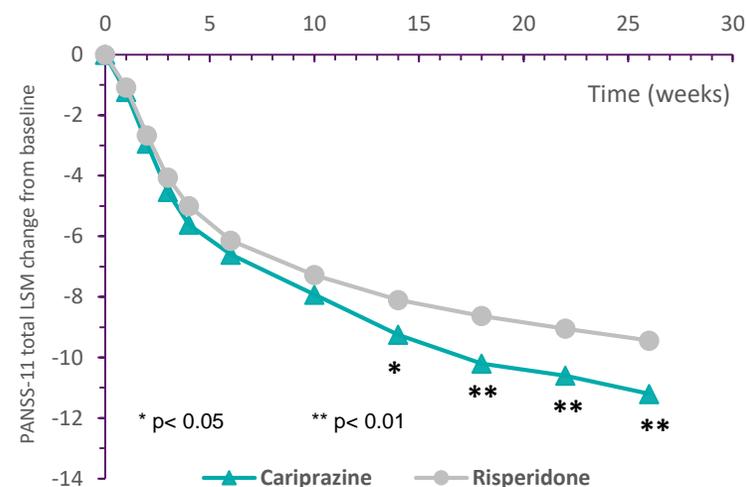
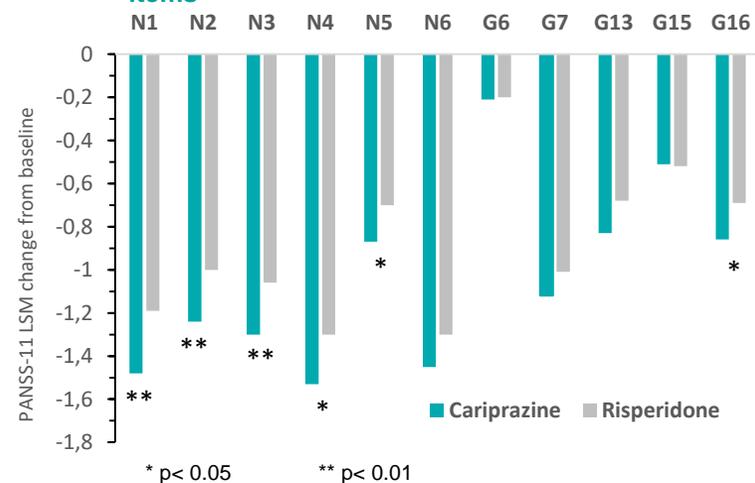


Figure 2 Patient engagement in PNS patients by PANSS items



CONCLUSIONS

- Cariprazine significantly improved patient engagement in patients with PNS of schizophrenia compared to risperidone based on the PANSS-11 total score.
- PANSS-11 total score improvement showed time dependence and was statistically significant for cariprazine from week 14.
- Cariprazine showed better improvement on almost all investigated PANSS items compared to risperidone.
- These results suggest that cariprazine treatment may improve not only the symptoms and everyday functioning of PNS patients but their engagement with their life and treatment.

RESULTS

- PANSS-11 total score LS mean CfB were -11.20 (SD=0.43) for cariprazine-, and -9.44 (SD=0.45) for risperidone-treated patients with a -1.79 (95% CI=-3.01, -0.56) LS mean difference ($p=0.004$) in favor of cariprazine.
- Improvement of patient engagement measured by PANSS-11 total score showed clear time course in favour of cariprazine compared to risperidone. The improvement was statistically significant from week 14 onwards (**Figure 1**).
- Most of the PANSS-11 items' changes were statistically significant (N1, N2, N3, N4, N5, G16) or at least numerically higher (N6, G7, G13) for cariprazine versus risperidone (**Figure 2**).

REFERENCES

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- Németh, G., Laszlovszky, I., Czobor, P., et al., 2017. *Lancet* **389**, 1103-1113.

DISCLOSURES & FUNDING STATEMENT

- The study was funded by Gedeon Richter Plc.
- Dr. Laszlovszky, Ms Dombi, Ms Balogh, Dr. Barabássy, Dr. Szatmári and Dr. Németh are employees of Gedeon Richter Plc.

