Escitalopram Protects Against Dementia

In addition to treating depression, a commonly used antidepressant medication also protects against compounds that can cause memory loss and dementia, according to a study in the *Journal of Psychiatric Research*.

The study compared 30 severely depressed patients with 27 healthy patients. Patients were treated with escitalopram and followed for 12 weeks. Some patients dropped out of the study due to side effects of escitalopram or other reasons. Of 20 patients who completed the study, 80% reported complete or partial relief from their depression.

To examine the inflammatory response, researchers measured blood levels of nine substances secreted by the immune system. At the beginning of the study, average levels of all nine substances were higher in the depressed patients than in the healthy patients.

Among patients treated with escitalopram, levels of two neurotoxic compounds dropped significantly: 3-hydroxykynurenine fell by more than two thirds between Weeks 8 and 12, and quinolinic acid dropped 50% during the first 8 weeks and was lower at the end of the study than at the beginning.


Home8 Automatic Medication Dispenser Tailored for Patients and Caregivers

Home8, the comprehensive smart home and smart care services company, announced the launch of the Home8 Automatic Medication Dispenser. The dispenser reminds users when it is time to take their medication, works seamlessly with Home8 event recording and mobile notifications, and is tailored for postoperative medication adherence or individuals experiencing debilitating conditions, such as dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.

The Home8 Automatic Medication Dispenser features a turn-motor and key lock, and 28 cartridges for up to 4 weeks of medication dispensing. It can be programmed through the mobile application, which tracks when it is in use and can push smartphone alerts to authorized users (e.g., family members, caregivers) for awareness and accountability.

Source. “Home8 Smart Medication Dispenser Delivers the Right Dose Every Time, Alerts Caregivers When Medications Are Missed.” (2016, January 6). Retrieved February 1, 2016, prn.to/1nKzyuL.