

Clinical Trial Protocol

Iranian Registry of Clinical Trials

11 Sep 2026

Comparison of the Efficacy of Lacosamide versus Valproate in the Treatment of Acute Mania in Bipolar Disorder

Protocol summary

Study aim

Comparison of the Efficacy of Lacosamide versus Sodium Valproate in Patients with Bipolar I Disorder in the Acute Manic Phase

Design

A Phase 3, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group clinical trial in 80 patients with bipolar I disorder in the acute manic phase. Randomization will be performed using balanced blocks with block sizes of 4 and 6. A total of 8 blocks of size 4 and 8 blocks of size 6 are planned for patient allocation.

Settings and conduct

The study will be conducted at Ibn Sina Psychiatric Hospital. Assessments will be performed at baseline (Day 0), as well as on Days 3, 7, and 14. Both patients and clinical raters will remain blinded to treatment allocation.

Participants/Inclusion and exclusion criteria

Inclusion Criteria: Definitive diagnosis of bipolar I disorder in the acute manic phase (according to DSM-5 criteria) Age 18–75 years (both sexes) YMRS score ≥ 20 at baseline evaluation Ability to undergo clinical assessments Provision of informed consent for participation Non-entry criteria: Pregnancy or lactation Intellectual disability or severe cognitive/functional impairment Predominant comorbid psychiatric disorder Hepatic impairment (ALT/AST $> 3 \times$ ULN) Thrombocytopenia (platelet count $< 100,000/\mu\text{L}$) Use of amphetamine-type substances Second- or third-degree heart block History of hypersensitivity to lacosamide or valproate

Intervention groups

Lacosamide Group: Treatment is initiated at a starting dose of 50 mg/day and gradually titrated up to 200–300 mg/day. Valproate Group: Treatment is initiated at a dose of 200 mg three times daily (i.e., 600 mg/day) and titrated over 2 weeks to reach a target dose of 20 mg/kg/day. Both groups will receive standard-of-care treatment for the acute manic phase.

Main outcome variables

Clinical response rate will be assessed using the CGI and YMRS scales after two weeks of treatment.

General information

Reason for update

Acronym

IRCT registration information

IRCT registration number: **IRCT20251208068253N4**

Registration date: **2026-07-01, 1405/04/10**

Registration timing: **prospective**

Last update: **2026-07-01, 1405/04/10**

Update count: **0**

Registration date

2026-07-01, 1405/04/10

Registrant information

Name

Farshad Abedi

Name of organization / entity

Country

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

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Recruitment status

recruiting

Funding source

Expected recruitment start date

2026-07-23, 1405/05/01

Expected recruitment end date

2027-10-22, 1406/07/30

Actual recruitment start date

empty

Actual recruitment end date

empty

Trial completion date

empty

Scientific title

Comparison of the Efficacy of Lacosamide versus Valproate in the Treatment of Acute Mania in Bipolar Disorder

Public title

Evaluation of the Efficacy of Lacosamide in Mania

Purpose

Treatment

Inclusion/Exclusion criteria**Inclusion criteria:**

Definitive diagnosis of bipolar 1 disorder in the acute manic phase (Based on DSM-5) Age 18 to 75 (both sexes included) YMRS total score 20 or greater at baseline Ability to participate in clinical evaluations Ability to provide written informed consent prior to any study-related procedures

Exclusion criteria:

Pregnancy or lactation Presence of intellectual disability or severe cognitive impairment A predominant comorbid psychiatric disorder that may confound the primary diagnosis Hepatic failure (ALT/AST > 3xULN) Thrombocytopenia (PLT< 100000) Use of amphetamine-type substances Second or third- degree heart block History of hypersensitivity reaction to Lacosamide or Valproate

Age

From **18 years** old to **75 years** old

Gender

Both

Phase

3

Groups that have been masked

- Participant
- Care provider
- Outcome assessor

Sample size

Target sample size: **80**

Randomization (investigator's opinion)

Randomized

Randomization description

The randomization method is designed using balanced blocks with block sizes of 4 and 6. A total of 8 blocks of size 4 and 8 blocks of size 6 are planned for patient allocation. Randomization will be performed using a block design with variable block sizes to assign participants to the intervention and control groups. To ensure allocation concealment, the randomization process will be conducted using Random Allocation Software, version 2.0. Accordingly, after obtaining informed consent and confirming eligibility criteria, the researcher will enter the patient's initial identification data into the software, and the treatment group will be assigned instantly and automatically. This method eliminates any possibility of predicting group assignment and provides the highest level of blinding for the study.

Blinding (investigator's opinion)

Double blinded

Blinding description

This study is designed as a double-blind trial, meaning that both the participants and the study personnel responsible for drug allocation will be unaware of the treatment assignments. To maintain blinding, the study medications will be prepared and dispensed to patients by nurses independent of the study team, using identical, coded packaging (designated as A/B).

Placebo

Used

Assignment

Parallel

Other design features**Secondary Ids**

empty

Ethics committees**1****Ethics committee****Name of ethics committee**

Ethics Committee of Mashhad University of Medical Sciences

Street address

School of Medicine, East Gate of the University Campus, Azadi Square, Mashhad, Iran

City

Mashhad

Province

Razavi Khorasan

Postal code

9117794864

Approval date

2026-04-25, 1405/02/05

Ethics committee reference number

IR.MUMS.REC.1405.048

Health conditions studied**1****Description of health condition studied**

Bipolar mood disorder

ICD-10 code

F30

ICD-10 code description

Manic episode

Primary outcomes**1****Description**

Change in Young Mania Rating Scale (YMRS) Score

Timepoint

Baseline (study entry) and on Days 3, 7, and 14

Method of measurement

Structured clinical interview

2

Description

Change in CGI-S (Clinical Global Impression – Severity) Score

Timepoint

Baseline (study entry) and on Days 3, 7, and 14

Method of measurement

Structured clinical interview

Secondary outcomes

1

Description

Adverse Events: Assessment method: Adverse event checklist and laboratory monitoring of renal function, hepatic function, and blood cell counts.

Timepoint

Baseline and on study day 14

Method of measurement

Based on the drug monograph of UptoDate, administered by trained personnel (clinical pharmacist/nurse).

Intervention groups

1

Description

Control group: Treatment with valproate is initiated at a dose of 200 mg three times daily and titrated over 2 weeks to reach a target dose of 20 mg/kg/day. Patients will be assessed at baseline (admission), and on Day 3, Week 1, and Week 2 using the YMRS and CGI, administered by a resident physician through patient interview. In addition, all patients will receive standard-of-care treatment with risperidone.

Category

Treatment - Drugs

2

Description

Intervention group: Treatment is initiated at a starting dose of 50 mg/day and gradually titrated up to 200–300 mg/day. Patients will be assessed at baseline (admission), and on Day 3, Week 1, and Week 2 using the YMRS and CGI scales, administered by a resident physician through patient interview. In addition, all patients will receive standard-of-care treatment with risperidone.

Category

Treatment - Drugs

Recruitment centers

1

Recruitment center

Name of recruitment center

Ibn-Sina Psychiatric Hospital

Full name of responsible person

Ali Akhondpour Manteghi

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Horr Ameli Boulevard

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Sponsors / Funding sources

1

Sponsor

Name of organization / entity

Mashhad University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Mohsen Tafaghodi

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University of Medical Sciences, 3rd floor, Vice-Chancellor for Research and Technology, University of Medical Sciences, next to Hoveizeh Cinema, Daneshgah Street

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Grant name

Grant code / Reference number

Is the source of funding the same sponsor organization/entity?

Yes

Title of funding source

Mashhad University of Medical Sciences

Proportion provided by this source

100

Public or private sector

Public

Domestic or foreign origin

Domestic

Category of foreign source of funding

empty

Country of origin

Type of organization providing the funding

Academic

Person responsible for general inquiries

Contact

Name of organization / entity

Mashhad University of Medical Sciences

Full name of responsible person

Farshad Abedi Torbati

Position

Assistant Professor

Latest degree

Subspecialist

Other areas of specialty/work

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Person responsible for scientific inquiries**Contact****Name of organization / entity**

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Latest degree

Specialist

Other areas of specialty/work

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Sharing plan**Deidentified Individual Participant Data Set (IPD)**

Yes - There is a plan to make this available

Study Protocol

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Statistical Analysis Plan

No - There is not a plan to make this available

Informed Consent Form

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Clinical Study Report

Yes - There is a plan to make this available

Analytic Code

Undecided - It is not yet known if there will be a plan to make this available

Data Dictionary

Yes - There is a plan to make this available

Title and more details about the data/document

A de-identified individual participant dataset including demographic information, cognitive performance scores, behavioral and neuropsychiatric symptom scores, and recorded adverse events collected during the trial. All personal identifiers will be removed to ensure full anonymization. The dataset includes only variables used for analysis of primary and secondary outcomes. The data file will be provided in an encrypted format and structured in a standardized manner.

When the data will become available and for how long

Access to the de-identified dataset will begin six months after publication of the main study results and will remain available for at least five years following the publication date.

To whom data/document is available

Researchers affiliated with universities, medical research centers, or recognized scientific institutions who have an approved research proposal related to the study topic may request access. Applicants must demonstrate relevant research experience.

Under which criteria data/document could be used

The data may be used exclusively for research purposes, secondary scientific analyses, or replication of study findings. Use of the data for commercial purposes or any

attempt to re-identify participants is prohibited. Applicants must provide a detailed research proposal, a confidentiality agreement, and a formal commitment not to attempt participant re-identification. Any secondary publication must cite the original dataset source.

From where data/document is obtainable

Requesters can send their application along with a brief proposal in Persian or English to the official email address of the Principal Investigator at [ManteghiA@mums.ac.ir]. The requester's name and institutional affiliation must be clearly stated.

What processes are involved for a request to access

data/document

Upon receiving a request, an initial review will be completed within five working days. If the research topic is appropriate, the applicant will be asked to submit a research proposal, a data confidentiality agreement, and a commitment not to attempt participant re-identification. After verification of all documents, the encrypted dataset will be shared within 10 to 15 working days. The entire process typically takes between two to four weeks

Comments