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DCGI approves Brintellix for major depressive disorder

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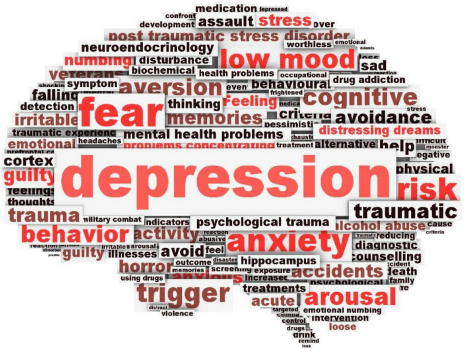

Lundbeck India Private Limited (LIPL) has announced the launch of Brintellix (Vortioxetine) in India for the treatment of patients suffering from Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) after receiving approval from Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).

As per a large-scale survey conducted by NIMHANS, an estimated 1 in 20 people in India suffers from depression. Mental disorders such as Major Depressive Disorder or depression in simple words affects everyone, irrespective of age, gender and living standards but research has shown that some segments of population seem to be at a higher risk of suffering from depression especially women and urban dwellers. There could be several factors like fast paced lifestyle, stress, complexities of living, breakdown of support systems, challenges of economic instability for this higher prevalence in urban population.

Brintellix, is a novel multimodal antidepressant, which has been specifically designed to inhibit serotonin reuptake and modulate serotonergic receptor activity of the neurons in the brain of affected patients. It has demonstrated significant efficacy in reducing the mood symptoms in adult patients with depression as measured by traditional scales like MADRS or HAMD. It has also demonstrated improvement of cognitive performance in adult patients with depression, as measured with neuropsychological tests, as e.g. DSST or RAVLT. Cognitive symptoms are part of the diagnostic criteria for depression, and include the ability to concentrate, make decisions and the ability to remember. Cognitive symptoms are both part of the acute depressive episode as well as often being a residual symptom of depression. This means that patients with depression may have difficulties performing their duties at work which leads loss of productivity and it impacts the person, his family and the society.

“When someone suffers from depression, the daily life of that person is severely affected, at home and in the workplace. Depression is a complex disease that involves mood, physical and cognitive symptoms. We are pleased to be able to offer a new treatment option to the patients with depression which can address all the symptoms of depression, helping the patient to function better,” says Maninder Singh Sahwney, Country Manager at Lundbeck India.