

Varenicline Versus Bupropion SR or Placebo for Smoking Cessation: A Pooled Analysis

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Objectives: To evaluate varenicline's efficacy for smoking cessation versus bupropion SR and placebo and to explore whether factors typically predictive of abstinence influence varenicline's efficacy versus placebo, as measured by the week 9-12 continuous abstinence rate (CAR₉₋₁₂). **Methods:** Smokers in 2 randomized, placebo-controlled trials received varenicline 1 mg BID (n=696), bupropion SR 150 mg BID (n=671), or placebo (n=685) for 12 weeks. Nontreatment follow-up lasted 40 weeks. **Results:** CAR₉₋₁₂

was greater for varenicline (44.0%) versus bupropion SR (29.7%; P<0.0001) and placebo (17.7%; P<0.0001). CAR₉₋₁₂ for varenicline versus placebo was not affected by age, gender, or nicotine dependence level. **Conclusions:** Varenicline was more efficacious than bupropion SR or placebo. Varenicline's efficacy versus placebo was not influenced by factors predictive of abstinence.

Key words: varenicline, smoking cessation, nicotine partial agonist, tobacco dependence

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