Poster Exhibition
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Reponse prediction to citalopram and reboxetine treatment by intensity dependent auditory evoked ERP components

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The stimulus intensity dependence (IDAP) of auditory evoked Event Related Potentials (ERP) components has been suggested as an indicator of central serotonergic neurotransmission with relevance to pharmacological treatment.
We evaluated the IDAP in 30 acutely depressed in-patients with major depressive episode (DSM IV) in the course of treatment either with the SSRI Citalopram (n = 16; 11 female, 5 male, mean age 39,4 ± 14,5 years) or with the SNRI Reboxetine (n = 14; 10 female, 4 male, mean age 45,2 ± 11,7 years). ERP were recorded 1 day before beginning antidepressant pharmacotherapy. Clinical symptoms of depression were assessed by means of Clinical Global Impression, Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HDRS, 21 items) and Beck Depression Inventory at the day of ERP recording and after 3 to 4 weeks (mean: 25 days) of antidepressant treatment.
Our data revealed a highly significant correlation between intensity slopes of the N1 amplitude prior to Reboxetine treatment ($r=0,86$, $p<0,01$ at Fz) and treatment-response (decrease of HDRS-Score): patients with a stronger decrease of HDRS-Score showed lower pre-treatment intensity slopes of N1-amplitude than patients within the higher intensity slope ranges. Conversely, for patients treated with Citalopram we found a significant inverse correlation ($r=0.56$, $p=.025$ at Fz).
As the activity of the central serotonergic system is not exclusively relevant for the treatment with antidepressants but also with newer antipsychotics like i.e. Aripiprazole, further studies are needed to evaluate the utility this approach in the differential pharmacotherapy of schizophrenia.