# Article information:

Evaluation of memantine's efficacy and safety in the treatment of children with autism spectrum disorder: A systematic review and meta‐analysis - Elnaiem - 2022 - Human Psychopharmacology: Clinical and Experimental - Wiley Online Library
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# Article summary:

1. Memantine, an N-Methyl-D-Aspartate receptor antagonist, has shown safety in reducing acute symptoms of anxiety and other symptoms encountered in pediatric patients with autism spectrum disorders.

2. However, memantine does not improve the core symptoms of autism and may aggravate impulsive behaviors.

3. Further long-term trials are needed to explore its potential efficacy in treating autism-related symptoms.

# Article rating:

Appears moderately imbalanced: The article provides some useful information, but is missing several important points or pieces of evidence that would be required to present the discussed topics in a balanced and reliable way. You are encouraged to seek a more balanced perspective on the presented issues by exploring the provided research topics and looking at different information sources.

# Article analysis:

The article titled "Evaluation of memantine's efficacy and safety in the treatment of children with autism spectrum disorder: A systematic review and meta-analysis" aims to systematically review the medical literature exploring the safety and efficacy of memantine in treating autism. The authors conducted a comprehensive electronic search for relevant randomized controlled trials in four databases and extracted and pooled data using RevMan software.

The article presents five trials, which suggest that memantine does not improve the core symptoms of autism but shows safety in reducing acute symptoms of anxiety and other symptoms encountered in pediatric patients with autism spectrum disorders. However, memantine aggravated impulsive behaviors. Additionally, one trial found that memantine added to risperidone was effective and safe.

While the article provides valuable insights into the potential use of memantine in treating autism, it has some limitations. Firstly, the sample size is small, with only five trials included in the analysis. Secondly, there is no discussion on potential biases or sources of bias within these studies. Thirdly, there is no exploration of counterarguments or alternative treatments for autism.

Furthermore, while the article notes that memantine aggravates impulsive behaviors, it does not provide any information on potential risks associated with this side effect. Additionally, there is no discussion on whether possible risks are noted or presented equally alongside potential benefits.

Overall, while the article provides useful information on the safety and efficacy of memantine in treating certain symptoms associated with autism spectrum disorders, it would benefit from a more thorough analysis of potential biases and limitations within these studies as well as a discussion on alternative treatments for autism.

# Topics for further research:

* Alternative treatments for autism spectrum disorders
* Risks associated with memantine use in pediatric patients
* Long-term effects of memantine treatment for autism
* Behavioral therapies for autism spectrum disorders
* Potential biases in randomized controlled trials for autism treatments
* Co-occurring conditions in pediatric patients with autism spectrum disorders

# Report location:

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