

# Doctor

# PEARLS



*Practical Evidence About Real Life Situations*

## Citalopram effective for major depression

### Clinical question

How effective is citalopram in comparison with tricyclics, heterocyclics, other selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and other conventional and non-conventional antidepressants in the acute-phase treatment of major (moderate-to-severe) depression?

### Bottom line

Citalopram was more efficacious than paroxetine and reboxetine, and more acceptable (lower drop-out rate) than tricyclics, reboxetine and venlafaxine. However, it seemed to be less efficacious than escitalopram. Follow-up extended to 6 months.

### Caveat

Economic analyses were not reported. Sponsorship bias and publication bias had the potential for overestimating treatment effects.

### Context

Antidepressant drugs remain the mainstay of treatment in moderate-to-severe depression. During the past 20 years, SSRIs have progressively become the most commonly prescribed antidepressants.

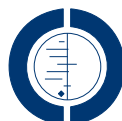
### Cochrane Systematic Review

Cipriani A et al. Citalopram versus other anti-depressive agents for depression. Cochrane Reviews, 2012, Issue 7. Article No. CD006534. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD006534.pub2.  
*This review contains 37 studies involving over 6000 participants.*

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*PEARLS are succinct summaries of Cochrane Systematic Reviews for primary care practitioners – developed by the Cochrane Primary Care Field, New Zealand Branch of the Australasian Cochrane Centre at the Department of General Practice and Primary Health Care, University of Auckland and funded by the Ministry of Health. New Zealanders can access the Cochrane Library free via [www.cochrane.org.nz](http://www.cochrane.org.nz)*

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