# A randomized trial of low-dose gabapentin for post hospitalization relapse prevention in a Thai clinical sample of alcohol dependence

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ABSTRACT

Pharmacological treatments for alcohol use disorder show a modest effect, and they are unavailable in certain countries. The study's aim is to investigate the effects of gabapentin on alcohol drinking. One hundred twelve. Thai individuals with alcohol dependence and very high alcohol consumption were randomly assigned to either of two groups: gabapentin treatment or placebo. Oral treatment with at least 300 mg of gabapentin per day or placebo was administered once a day for twelve weeks. The alcohol drinking pattern was assessed by means of the timeline follow back method. The drinking behaviours of the two groups were compared by means of the Poisson repeated measures model and Generalized Estimating Equations (GEE) analysis. Twenty subjects (35.7%) from the gabapentin group and 14 subjects (25.0%) from the placebo group completed the study protocol. The participants in the gabapentin group did not differ from the placebo group with respect to demographics or baseline alcohol drinking behaviour. After follow up, the gabapentin group showed a lower percentage of heavy drinking days per week than the placebo group ($p < 0.005$). GEE analysis showed treatment by time interaction on Lowering drinking days within a week ($p < 0.05$). In conclusion, gabapentin may be used to reduce alcohol-drinking behaviours.