

Forest plot	Description	Study Ids	Quality	Consistency	Directness	Other factors	N treatment group/N control	Effect size (SMD)	Absolute statistic (WMD)	Likelihood of clinically important effect	Overall quality
03 Aggression measures											
<i>01 Clinician-rated measures</i>											
Pharm 03.01	Omega-3 fatty acids vs placebo: OAS-M - total mean endpoint (8/12 weeks)	Hallahan2007 Omega-3Zanarini2003	Sign 1+	None	Symptomatic volunteers or people presenting at A&E following self-harm; mild depression at baseline	Skewed data (-1); Research body funded/part-pharma	37/29	SMD = -0.52 (-1.02, -0.01)	WMD = -4.41 (-8.81, -0.01)	(-Likely favouring treatment)	Low
Pharm 03.01	Olanzapine vs fluoxetine + olanzapine: OAS-M - total mean change (8 weeks)	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis 1 disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); pharma-sponsored	16/13	SMD = 0.02 (-0.71, 0.76)	WMD = 0.46 (-12.93, 13.85)	(- Inconclusive)	Very low
Pharm 03.01	04 Fluoxetine vs fluoxetine + olanzapine: OAS-M - total mean change (8 weeks)	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis 1 disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); pharma-sponsored	13/13	SMD = 0.25 (-0.53, 1.02)	WMD = 4.77 (-9.67, 19.21)	(- Inconclusive)	Very low
Pharm 03.01	05 Olanzapine vs fluoxetine: OAS-M - total mean change (8 weeks)	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis 1 disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); pharma-sponsored	16/13	SMD = -0.2 (-0.93, 0.53)	WMD = -4.31 (-19.72, 11.1)	(-Inconclusive)	Very low
Pharm 03.01	06 Divalproex vs p DVP	Hollander 2003	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; includes cluster B & intermittent explosive disorder;	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); pharma-sponsored	43/48	SMD = -0.15 (-0.56, 0.27)	WMD = -9.4 (-35.65, 16.85)	(- Inconclusive)	Very low
Pharm 03.01	07 Olanzapine vs pEli Lilly #6253 (hi)SCHULTZ2008		Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients	Skewed data (-1); pharma-	292/293	SMD = 0.04 (-0.12, 0.2)	WMD = 7.57 (-8.41, 23.55)	(- Unlikely)	Moderate
<i>02 Self-rated measures</i>											

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Pharm 03.02	01 Divalproex vs placebo: Aggression Questionnaire (10 weeks)	Hollander 2001 DVP	Sign 1+	N/A	Mixed outpatients symptomatic volunteers; moderate depression at	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); part pharma-sponsored	5/4	SMD = -0.54 (-1.89, 0.82)	WMD = -9.2 (-28.32, 9.92)	Inconclusive	Very low	
04 Anger measures					b ii							
<i>01 STAXI - state anger subscale (8 weeks)</i>												
Pharm 04.01	01 Topiramate vs placebo	Nickel 2005 TOP Nickel 2004 TOP	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity: random effects model used (-1)	Mixed outpatients symptomatic volunteers; Nickel 2005 100% men; 100% axis I disorders	No funding	41/30	SMD (random effects) = -2.67 (-4.41, -0.94)	WMD (random effects) = -6.32 (-7.38, -5.25)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate	
Pharm 04.01	02 Aripiprazole vs placebo	Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients;100% axis I disorders	Sparse data (-1); no funding	26/26	SMD = -1.78 (-2.43, -1.13)	WMD = -7.7 (-10.01, -5.39)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate	
Pharm 04.01	03 Lamotrigine vs placebo	Tritt 2003 LAM	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers;	Sparse data (-1); funding unclear	18/9	SMD = -2.75 (-3.87, -1.62)	WMD = -8.5 (-10.98, -6.02)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate	
Pharm 04.01	All studies	Nickel 2004 TOP Nickel 2005 TOP Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ Tritt 2003 LAM	Sign 1+		Mixed outpatients symptomatic volunteers; Nickel 2005 100% men; 100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	85/65	SMD (random effects) = -2.36 (-3.1, -1.61)	WMD (random effects) = -6.86 (-7.85, -5.86)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate	
Pharm 04.02	02 ZAN-BPD Intense Anger Item	Schultz2008 OLZ	Sign 1+	N/A		Sparse/skewed data (-1)	155/159	SMD = -0.18 (-0.4, 0.04)	WMD = -0.2 (-0.45, 0.05)	Unlikely	Moderate	
Pharm 04.03	03 STAXI - state anger subscale (follow-up)											
Pharm 04.03	02 Aripiprazole vs placebo (12 months)	Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	Sign 1++	N/A	Outpatients;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding; naturalistic follow-up (placebo group on drugs) (-1)	22/17	SMD = -3.84 (-4.94, -2.74)	WMD = -11.4 (-13.14, -9.66)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Low	

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Pharm 04.03	03 Aripiprazole vs Nickel2006 placebo (18 months)	Sign 1++	N/A	Outpatients;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding; naturalistic follow-up (placebo group on drugs) (-1)	22/17	SMD = -3.66 (-4.73, -2.6)	WMD = -11 (-12.76, -9.24)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Low
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05 Anxiety measures

01 Clinician-rated measures (endpoint)

Pharm 05.01	01 Aripiprazole vs Nickel2006 placebo: HARS (8 weeks)	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	26/26	SMD = -0.73 (-1.29, -0.17)	WMD = -3.2 (-5.55, -0.85)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
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Pharm 05.01	02 Ziprasidone vs Pascual2008 placebo: HARS (12 weeks)	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); part-pharma	30/30	SMD = -0.11 (-0.62, 0.39)	WMD = -0.7 (-3.81, 2.41)	Inconclusive	Very low
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02 Clinician-rated measures (follow-up)

Pharm 05.02	02 Aripiprazole vs Nickel2006 placebo: HARS (12 months)	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding; naturalistic follow-up (placebo group on drugs) (-1)	22/17	SMD = -2.67 (-3.56, -1.78)	WMD = -7.5 (-9.16, -5.84)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Low
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Pharm 05.02	03 Aripiprazole vs Nickel2006 placebo: HARS (18 months)	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding; naturalistic follow-up (placebo group on drugs) (-1)	22/17	SMD = -2.42 (-3.27, -1.57)	WMD = -6.7 (-8.34, -5.06)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Low
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03 Self-rated measures

Pharm 05.03	01 Aripiprazole vs Nickel2006 placebo: SCL-90 anxiety subscale (6 weeks)	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	26/26	SMD = -1.41 (-2.03, -0.8)	WMD = -9.1 (-12.55, -5.65)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
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Pharm 05.03	02 Olanzapine vs placebo: SCL-90 anxiety subscale (raw change scores) (12 weeks)	Bogenschutz2004 OLZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); pharma-sponsored	16/18	SMD = 0.21 (-0.46, 0.89)	WMD = 0.24 (-0.5, 0.98)	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 05.03	02 Topiramate vs placebo: SCL-90 anxiety subscale (10 weeks)	Loew 2006 TOP	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis I disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	28/28	SMD = -1.4 (-1.99, -0.81)	WMD = -6.3 (-8.63, -3.97)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
06 Depression measures: clinician-rated											
<i>01 Clinician-rated measures (endpoint): antidepressants</i>											
Pharm 06.01	01 Amitriptyline vs placebo: HRSD (5 weeks)	Soloff1989 HAL/AMI	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatient; mix of unstable BPD and SPD; moderate depression at	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); research body funded	29/28	SMD = -0.53 (-1.06, 0)	WMD = -4.88 (-9.58, -0.18)	-Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Pharm 06.01	02 Phenelzine vs placebo: HRSD (5 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate depression at baseline	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); research body funded	34/28	SMD = -0.18 (-0.68, 0.32)	WMD = -1.54 (-5.77, 2.69)	-Inconclusive	Very low
<i>02 Clinician-rated measures (follow-up): antidepressants</i>											
Pharm 06.02	01 Phenelzine vs placebo: HRSD (21 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); research body funded	22/18	SMD = 0.12 (-0.5, 0.75)	WMD = 1.04 (-4.16, 6.24)	-Inconclusive	Very low
<i>03 Clinician-rated measures (endpoint): antipsychotics</i>											
Pharm 06.03	01 Aripiprazole vs placebo: HRSD (8 weeks)	Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	26/26	SMD = -1.25 (-1.85, -0.65)	WMD = -4.9 (-7, -2.8)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Pharm 06.03	02 Haloperidol vs placebo: HRSD (5 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN Soloff1989 HAL/AMI	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity: sensitivity analysis undertaken	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate depression at	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); research body funded	58/56	SMD = -0.05 (-0.42, 0.32)	WMD = -0.37 (-3.49, 2.75)	-Unlikely	Low
Pharm 06.03	03 Ziprasidone vs placebo: pascal2008 ZIPRAS	pascal2008 ZIPRAS	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	30/30	SMD = -0.31 (-0.82, 0.2)	WMD = -1.9 (-4.95, 1.15)	-Inconclusive	Very low

04 Sensitivity analysis: Clinician-rated measures (endpoint): antipsychotics

Pharm 06.04	01 Aripiprazole vs placebo: HRSD (8 weeks)	Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	26/26	SMD = -1.25 (-1.85, -0.65)	WMD = -4.9 (-7, -2.8)		
Pharm 06.04	02 Haloperidol vs placebo: HRSD (5 weeks)	Soloff1989 HAL/AMI	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatient; mix of unstable BPD and SPD; moderate depression at baseline	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); research body funded	28/28	SMD = -0.55 (-1.08, -0.01)	WMD = -4.84 (-9.4, -0.28)		
Pharm 06.03	03 Ziprasidone vs placebo: HRSD (12 months)	Pascual2008 ZIPRAS	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; moderate depression at baseline	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	30/30	SMD = -0.31 (-0.82, 0.2)	WMD = -1.9 (-4.95, 1.15)		
Pharm 06.04	Antipsychotics vs placebo: HRSD (21 weeks)	Pascual2008 ZIPRAS Soloff1989 HAL/AMI	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity: random effects model used (-1)	Mixed; mix of unstable BPD and SPD; moderate depression at baseline	Skewed data (-1); various funding	84/84	SMD (random effects) = -0.68 (-1.21, -0.15)	WMD (random effects) = 0.01 (0, 0)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Low

05 Clinician-rated measures (follow-up): antipsychotics

Pharm 06.05	02 Aripiprazole vs placebo: HRSD (12 months)	Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	22/17	SMD = -2.71 (-3.61, -1.81)	WMD = -8.1 (-9.99, -6.21)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Pharm 06.05	03 Aripiprazole vs placebo: HRSD (18 months)	Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	22/17	SMD = -2.46 (-3.32, -1.6)	WMD = -7.1 (-8.93, -5.27)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Pharm 06.05	04 Haloperidol vs placebo: HRSD (21 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); research body funded	14/18	SMD = 0.97 (0.22, 1.71)	WMD = 9.72 (2.66, 16.78)	Very likely (favouring control)	Low

06 Clinician-rated measures (endpoint): anticonvulsants

Pharm 06.06	01 Carbamazepine vs placebo: HRSD (5 weeks)	De LaFuente 1994 CBZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatient; excluded axis I although high levels of depression	Sparse/ imprecise data/skewed (-1); funding unclear	10/10	SMD = -0.52 (-1.41, 0.38)	WMD = -5.9 (-15.52, 3.72)	Inconclusive	Very low
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07 Clinician-rated measures (endpoint): omega-3 fatty acids

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Pharm 0.06	01 Omega-3 fatty acids vs placebo: HRSD (8/12 weeks)	Hallahan2007 Omega-3 Zanarini2003 Omega-3	Sign 1+	No significant heterogeneity	Symptomatic volunteers (mild depression at baseline) or A&E presentation for self-harm (severe depression at baseline)	Skewed data (-1) Research body funded/part-pharma	37/29	SMD = -0.52 (-1.02, -0.01)	WMD = -3.19 (-6.46, 0.07)	(-Likely favouring treatment)	Low
<i>08 Clinician-rated measures (endpoint): combination treatments</i>											
Pharm 06.08	03 Fluoxetine + olanzapine vs olanzapine: MADRS (8 weeks)	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis 1 disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); pharma-sponsored	13/16	SMD = 0.39 (-0.35, 1.13)	WMD = 2.63 (-2.1, 7.36)	(- Inconclusive)	Very low
Pharm 06.08	04 Fluoxetine + olanzapine vs fluoxetine: MADRS (8 weeks)	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis 1 disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); pharma-sponsored	13/13	SMD = -0.41 (-1.19, 0.37)	WMD = -2.77 (-7.78, 2.24)	(-Inconclusive)	Very low
Pharm 06.08	05 Fluoxetine vs olanzapine: MADRS (8 weeks)	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis 1 disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); pharma-sponsored	13/16	SMD = 0.73 (-0.03, 1.49)	WMD = 5.4 (0.12, 10.68)	Likely (favouring olanzapine)	Low

07 Depression measures: self-rated

01 Self-rated measures (endpoint): antidepressants

Pharm 07.01	01 Amitriptyline vs placebo: BDI (5 weeks)	Soloff1989 HAL/AMI	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatient; mix of unstable BPD and SPD; moderate depression at baseline	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); research body funded	29/28	SMD = -0.59 (-1.12, -0.06)	WMD = -7.7 (-14.45, -0.95)		
Pharm 07.01	02 Phenelzine vs placebo: BDI (5 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate depression at baseline	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); research body funded	34/28	SMD = -0.34 (-0.84, 0.16)	WMD = -3.85 (-9.63, 1.93)		
Pharm 07.01	Antidepressants vs placebo: BDI (5 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN Soloff1989 HAL/AMI	Sign 1+	None	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); research body funded	63/56	SMD = -0.46 (-0.82, -0.09)	WMD = -5.48 (-9.87, -1.09)	(-Likely favouring treatment)	Low

01 Self-rated measures (follow-up): antidepressants

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Pharm 07.02	01 Phenezine vs placebo: BDI (16 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of I disorders; moderate depression at baseline	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); research and SPD with axis body funded	22/18	SMD = -0.15 (-0.77, 0.47)	WMD = -2.12 (-10.69, 6.45) (-Inconclusive)	Very low
<i>03 Self-rated measures (endpoint): antipsychotics</i>										
Pharm 07.03	01 Aripiprazole vs placebo: SCL-90 depressin subscale (8 weeks)	Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	26/26	SMD = -1.96 (-2.63, -1.29)	WMD = -16.4 (-20.88, -11.92) (-Very likely favouring treatment)	Moderate
Pharm 07.03	02 Haloperidol vs placebo: BDI (5 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN Soloff1989 HAL/AMI	Sign 1+	None	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of I disorders; moderate	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); research and SPD with axis body funded	58/56	SMD = -0.09 (-0.46, 0.28)	WMD = -1.11 (-6.02, 3.8) (-Inconclusive)	Very low
Pharm 07.03	03 Ziprasidone vs placebo: BDI (12 weeks)	Pascual2008 ZIPRAS	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	30/30	SMD = -0.33 (-0.83, 0.18)	WMD = -4.4 (-11.16, 2.36) (-Inconclusive)	Very low
Pharm 07.03	03 Self-rated measures (endpoint): antipsychotics	Pascual2008 ZIPRAS Soloff1989 HAL/AMI Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	Sign 1+	Significant heterMix		Imprecise/skewed data (-1)	114/112	SMD = -0.47 (-0.74, -0.19)	WMD = -8.48 (-11.45, -5.51) (-Inconclusive)	Very low
<i>04 Sensitivity analysis: Self-rated measures (endpoint): antipsychotics</i>										
Pharm 07.04	04 Sensitivity analysis: Self-rated measures (endpoint): antipsychotics	Soloff1989 HAL/AMI Pascual2008 ZIPRAS	Sign 1+	None	Mix	Skewed data (-1)	58/58	SMD = -0.41 (-0.77, -0.04)	WMD = -5.54 (-10.45, -0.63) (-Likely favouring treatment)	Moderate
<i>05 Self-rated measures (endpoint change scores): antipsychotics</i>										
Pharm 07.05	01 Olanzapine vs placebo: SCL-90 depression subscale (raw change scores) (12 weeks)	Bogenschutz2004 OLZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); pharmaceutical sponsored	16/18	SMD = 0.45 (0.23, 1.13)	WMD = 0.59 (-0.27, 1.45) (-Inconclusive)	Very low

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05 Self-rated measures (follow-up): antipsychotics

Pharm 07.06	01 Haloperidol vs placebo: BDI (21 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate depression at	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); research body funded	14/18	SMD = 0.64 (-0.08, 1.36)	WMD = 9.53 (-0.95, 20.01)	Likely (favouring control)	Low
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06 Self-rated measures (endpoint): anticonvulsants

Pharm 07.07	01 Divalproex vs placebo: SCL-90 depression subscale/BDI (26/10 weeks)	Hollander 2001 DVP Frankenburg 2002 DVP	Sign 1+		Mixed outpatients symptomatic volunteers; moderate depression at baseline	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); part pharma-sponsored	25/14	SMD = -0.61 (-1.29, 0.07)	N/A	Likely (favouring treatment)	Low
Pharm 07.07	02 Topiramate vs placebo: SCL-90 depression subscale (10 weeks)	Loew 2006 TOP	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis I disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	28/28	SMD = -0.51 (-1.04, 0.02)	WMD = -2.4 (-4.83, 0.03)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Pharm 07.07	03 Carbamazepine vs placebo: SCL-90 depression	De LaFuente 1994 CBZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatient; excluded axis I although high levels of	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); funding unclear	10/10	SMD = -0.67 (-1.57, 0.24)	WMD = -10.38 (-23.44, 2.68)	Inconclusive	Very low

08 Self-rated measures (endpoint): omega-3 fatty acids

Pharm 07.08	08 Self-rated measures (endpoint): omega-3 fatty acids	01 BDI at 12 weeks	Sign 1+	N/A	82% BDP; primary diagnosis self-harm	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); part pharma-	19/20	SMD = -0.96 (-1.63, -0.3)	WMD = -11.4 (-18.69, -4.11)	(-Likely favouring treatment)	Low
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08 Global functioning measures

Pharm 08.01	02 Haloperidol vs placebo: GAS (5 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); research body funded	30/28	SMD = -0.31 (-0.83, 0.21)	WMD = -3.48 (-9.24, 2.28)	(-Inconclusive)	Very low
Pharm 08.01	03 Phenelzine vs placebo: GAS (5 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); research body funded	34/28	SMD = 0.14 (-0.36, 0.64)	WMD = 1.67 (-4.28, 7.62)	(-Inconclusive)	Very low

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Pharm 08.01	04 Haloperidol vs placebo: GAS (21 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); research body funded	14/18	SMD = -0.73 (-1.45, 0)	WMD = -9.17 (-17.62, -0.72)	(-Likely favouring treatment)	Moderate
Pharm 08.01	05 Phenezine vs placebo: GAS (21 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); research body funded	22/18	SMD = -0.17 (-0.79, 0.46)	WMD = -1.94 (-9.24, 5.36)	(-Inconclusive)	Very low

09 Hostility measures

01 Clinician-rated measure: Buss-Durkee hostility inventory

Pharm 09.01	01 Haloperidol vs placebo: 5 weeks	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); research body funded	30/28	SMD = -0.18 (-0.69, 0.34)	WMD = -2.35 (-9.03, 4.33)	(-Inconclusive)	Very low
Pharm 09.01	02 Phenezine vs placebo: 5 weeks	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); research body funded	34/28	SMD = -0.64 (-1.15, -0.13)	WMD = -9.19 (-16.12, -2.26)	(-Likely favouring treatment)	Moderate
Pharm 09.01	03 Haloperidol vs placebo: 21 weeks	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); research body funded	14/18	SMD = -0.17 (-0.87, 0.53)	WMD = -2.06 (-10.37, 6.25)	(-Inconclusive)	Very low
Pharm 09.01	04 Phenezine vs placebo: 21 weeks	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); research body funded	22/18	SMD = -0.56 (-1.19, 0.08)	WMD = -7.96 (-16.53, 0.61)	(-Likely favouring treatment)	Moderate

02 Self-complete measure: SCL-90 hostility subscale (some T-scores)

Pharm 09.02	01 Amitriptyline vs placebo: (5 weeks)	Soloff1989 HAL/AMI	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatient; mix of unstable BPD and SPD; moderate depression at	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); research body funded	30/28	SMD = -0.3 (-0.82, 0.22)	WMD = -0.25 (-0.68, 0.18)	(-Inconclusive)	Very low
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Pharm 09.02	02 Haloperidol vs placebo: 5 weeks	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN Soloff1989 HAL/AMI	Sign 1+	No significant help	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); research body funded	58/56	SMD = -0.46 (-0.84, -0.09)	WMD = -0.41 (-0.73, -0.08)	(-Likely favouring treatment)	Low
Pharm 09.02	03 Aripiprazole vs placebo: 8 weeks	Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	26/26	SMD = -1.14 (-1.73, -0.55)	WMD = -8.5 (-12.48, -4.52)	(- Very likely favouring treatment)	Moderate
Pharm 09.02	04 Carbamazepine vs placebo: 5 weeks	De LaFuente 1994 CBZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatient; excluded axis I although high levels of Symptomatic	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); funding unclear	10/10	SMD = -0.34 (-1.23, 0.54)	WMD = -2.76 (-9.56, 4.04)	(-Inconclusive)	Very low
Pharm 09.02	05 Divalproex vs placebo: 26 weeks	Frankenburg 2002 DVP	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% BDII;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); pharma-sponsored	20/10	SMD = -0.15 (-0.91, 0.61)	WMD = -0.1 (-0.58, 0.38)	(- Inconclusive)	Very low
Pharm 09.02	06 Topiramate vs placebo: 10 weeks	Loew 2006 TOP	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis I disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	28/28	SMD = -3.1 (-3.89, -2.3)	WMD = -9.3 (-10.85, -7.75)	(- Very likely favouring treatment)	Moderate
Pharm 09.02	07 Phenelzine vs placebo: 5 weeks	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); research body funded	34/28	SMD = -0.34 (-0.84, 0.17)	WMD = -0.31 (-0.77, 0.15)	(-Likely favouring treatment)	Low
Pharm 09.02	08 Olanzapine vs placebo: 12 weeks	Schultz2008 OLZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); part pharma-	155/159	SMD = -0.42 (-0.65, -0.2)	WMD = -0.42 (-0.65, -0.2)	(-Likely favouring treatment)	Moderate

Pharm 02 Self-complete measure: SCL-90 hostility subscale (some T-scores)

03 Self-complete measure: SCL-90 hostility subscale (antipsychotics only) some T-scores

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Pharm 09.03	03 Self-complete measure: SCL-90 hostility subscale (antipsychotics) some T-scores	Schultz2008 OLZ Soloff1989 HAL/AMI Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity: sensitivity analysis performed	Inpatient; mix of unstable BPD and SPD; moderate depression at baseline; 1993: Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate depression at baseline		239/241	SMD = -0.57 (- 0.88, -0.26)	N/A	N/A
Pharm 09.04	04 Sensitivity analysis: Self- complete measure: SCL-90 hostility subscale (antipsychotics) some T-scores	Schultz2008 OLZ 01 Olanzapine vs placebo: 12 weeks Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	None	Mix	None	213/215	SMD = -0.43 (- 0.63, -0.24)	WMD = -0.32 (-Likely 0.18, 0.07) (favouring treatment)	High
10 Impulsiveness measures										
<i>01 Clinician-rated measure: Barratt Impulsiveness Scale</i>										
Pharm 10.01	01 Haloperidol vs placebo: 5 weeks	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN Soloff1989 HAL/AMI	Sign 1+		Inpatient; mix of unstable BPD and SPD; moderate depression at baseline;1993 Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); research body funded	58/56	SMD = 0.07 (- 0.3, 0.43)	WMD = 1.38 (- 7.51, 10.27)	Inconclusive Very low
Pharm 10.01	02 Phenelzine vs placebo: 5 weeks	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); research body funded	34/28	SMD = 0 (-0.5, 0.5)	WMD = -0.08 (-Inconclusive 19.54, 19.38)	Very low
Pharm 10.01	03 Ziprasidone vs placebo: 12 weeks	Pascual2008 ZIPRAS	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); part- pharma funded	30/30	SMD = -0.06 (- 0.57, 0.44)	WMD = 0.81 (0, 0)	Inconclusive Very low

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Pharm 10.01	05 Amitriptyline vs placebo: 5 weeks	Soloff1989 HAL/AMI	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatient; mix of unstable BPD and SPD	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); research body funded	29/28	SMD = -0.12 (-0.64, 0.4)	WMD = -2.56 (-Inconclusive 13.1, 7.98)	Very low
<i>02 Self-rated measure: STIC</i>										
Pharm 10.02	01 Haloperidol vs placebo: 5 weeks	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); research body funded	30/28	SMD = 0.18 (-0.34, 0.7)	WMD = 1.45 (- Inconclusive 2.66, 5.56)	Very low
Pharm 10.02	02 Phenelzine vs placebo: 5 weeks	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); research body funded	34/28	SMD = 0.26 (-0.24, 0.76)	WMD = 2.08 (- Inconclusive 1.83, 5.99)	Very low
11 Mental distress										
<i>01 GSI</i>										
Pharm 11.01	01 Aripiprazole vs placebo (8 weeks)	Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	26/26	SMD = -1.27 (-1.87, -0.67)	WMD = -9.3 (- Very likely 13.22, -5.38) (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Pharm 11.01	02 Haloperidol vs placebo (5 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); research body funded	30/28	SMD = 0.23 (-0.28, 0.75)	WMD = 0.18 (- Inconclusive 0.21, 0.57)	Very low
Pharm 11.01	03 Phenelzine vs placebo (5 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); research body funded	34/28	SMD = -0.23 (-0.73, 0.27)	WMD = -0.17 (-Inconclusive 0.55, 0.21)	Very low
Pharm 11.01	05 Aripiprazole vs placebo (12 months)	Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	22/17	SMD = -2.62 (-3.5, -1.74)	WMD = -18.9 (-Very likely 23.41, -14.39) (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Pharm 11.01	06 Aripiprazole vs placebo (18 months)	Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	22/17	SMD = -2.22 (-3.04, -1.4)	WMD = -15.7 (-Very likely 20.27, -11.13) (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Pharm 11.01	07 Olanzapine vs placebo (12 weeks)	Eli Lilly #6253 (hi)SCHULTZ2008	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity: random effects model used (-1)	Outpatients	Skewed data/imprecise (-1); pharma-funded	280/277	SMD (random effects) = -0.21 (-0.53, 0.1)	WMD = -0.04 (-Inconclusive 0.21, 0.13)	Very low

13 Self-harm/suicidality

01 Number of participants (8/12 weeks)

Pharm 12.01	01 Omega-3 vs placebo	Hallahan2007 Omega-3 Zanarini2003	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; mild depression at baseline	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); research body funded	39/30	RD = 0.01 (-0.19, 0.21)	23% vs 27%	Inconclusive	Very low
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Pharm 12.01	02 Olanzapine vs placebo: suicide attempts (12 weeks)	Eli Lilly #6253 SCHULTZ2008	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients	Pharma-sponsored	355/253	RD = 0.01 (-0.02, 0.04)	5% vs 3%	Unlikely	High
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02 Self-harm/suicidality continuous measures

Pharm 12.02	01 Olanzapine vs placebo: ZAN-BPD suicidal/self-mutilating behaviour	Schultz2008 OLZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients	Skewed/sparse data (-1); pharma-sponsored	155/159	SMD = 0.3 (0.08, 0.52)	WMD = -0.28 (-0.61, 0.05)	Unlikely	Moderate
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Pharm 12.02	04 Olanzapine vs placebo: OAS-M suicidality subscale change scores (12 weeks)	Eli Lilly #6253 (hi)SCHULTZ2008	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients	Skewed data (-1); pharma-sponsored	295/291	SMD = -0.26 (-0.43, -0.1)	WMD = -0.28 (-0.61, 0.05)	Unlikely	Moderate
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14 Service use

Pharm 14.01	01 Number of visits to emergency psychiatric services (12 weeks)	Soler2005 Olz+DBT	Sign 1+	N/A	Setting unclear;	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); part pharma-sponsored	30/30	SMD = 0.04 (-0.08, 0.16)	WMD = 0.04 (-0.08, 0.16)	Unlikely	Moderate
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15 Severe psychopathology (BPRS)

Pharm 13.01	01 Carbamazepine vs placebo: 5 weeks	De LaFuente 1994 CBZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatient; excluded axis I although high levels of depression	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); funding unclear	10/10	SMD = 1.27 (0.29, 2.25)	WMD = 20.82 (7.08, 34.56)	Likely (favouring placebo)	Moderate
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Pharm 13.01	Ziprasidone vs placebo	Pascual2008 ZIPRAS	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatient	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); part-pharma funded	30/30	SMD = -0.27 (-0.78, 0.24)	WMD = 0.29 (0, 0)	Inconclusive	Very low
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14 BPD symptomatology

Pharm 14.01	01 Olanzapine vs placebo (12 weeks)	Eli Lilly #6253 (hi)SCHULTZ2008	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatient	Skewed data (-1); pharma-sponsored	294/302	SMD = -0.15 (-0.31, 0.01)	WMD = -0.18 (-1.71, 1.35)	Unlikely	Moderate
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23 Sub-analysis by study funding

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01 Single active treatment vs placebo: clinician-rated efficacy measure(s) (combined)

Pharm 23.01	01 None	Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Relevant	Sparse/ data (-1)	imprecise 26/26	SMD = -0.99 (- 1.56, -0.42)	N/A	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Pharm 23.01	02 Pharma	Hollander 2003 DVP	Sign 1+	N/A	Relevant	Sparse/ data (-1); no funding	imprecise 43/48	SMD = -0.15 (- 0.56, 0.26)	N/A	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 23.01	03 Research body	Soloff1989 HAL/AMI Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN Zanarini2003 Omega-3	Sign 1+	None		None	79/65	SMD = -0.4 (- 0.73, -0.07)	N/A	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Pharm 23.01	04 Unclear	De LaFuente 1994 CBZ	Sign 1+	N/A		Sparse/ data (-1)	imprecise 10/10	SMD = -0.51 (- 1.38, 0.35)	N/A	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 23.01	Total		Sign 1+	No significant heterogeneity		None	158/149	SMD = -0.42 (- 0.65, -0.2)	N/A	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate

02 Single active treatment vs placebo: Self-rated efficacy measure(s) (combined)

Pharm 23.02	01 None	Loew 2006 TOP Nickel 2004 TOP Nickel 2005 TOP Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity: random effects model used (-1)		None	95/84	SMD = (random effects) -1.99 (- 2.68, -1.29)	N/A	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Pharm 23.02	02 Pharma	Bogenschutz2004 OLZ Frankenburg 2002 DVP	Sign 1+	N/A		None	36/28	SMD = -0.33 (- 0.82, 0.17)	N/A	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 23.02	03 Research body	Soloff1989 HAL/AMI Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	N/A		None	61/56	SMD = -0.25 (- 0.61, 0.12)	N/A	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 23.02	04 Unclear	De LaFuente 1994 CBZTritt 2003 LAM	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity: random effects model used		None	28/19	SMD = (random effects) -1.6 (-3.8, 0.6)	N/A	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 23.02	05 Part-pharma	Hollander 2001 DVP	Sign 1+	N/A		None	5/4	SMD = -0.8 (- 2.03, 0.44)	N/A	Inconclusive	Very low

Pharm 23.02	Total	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity: random effects model used	None	225/191	SMD = (random N/A effects) -1.18 (- 1.74, -0.62)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
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Forest plot	Description	Study Ids	Quality	Consistency	Directness	Other factors	N treatment group/N control	Effect size	Absolute statistics (where appropriate)	Likelihood of clinically important effect	Overall quality	
16 Leaving treatment early for any reason												
01 Antidepressants vs placebo												
Pharm 15.01	03 Fluvoxamine vs placebo (6 weeks)	Rinne2004 FLUVOX	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Mixed outpatients symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis I disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); part pharmaceutical sponsored	20/18	RD = -0.06 (-0.23, 0.11)	5%	11%	Inconclusive	Very low
02 Antidepressants (non-placebo comparisons)												
Pharm 15.02	02 Fluoxetine + olanzapine vs fluoxetine	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis I disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); pharmaceutical sponsored	15/14	RD = 0.06 (-0.16, 0.28)	13%	7%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 15.02	04 Fluoxetine vs olanzapine	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis I disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); pharmaceutical sponsored	14/16	RD = 0.07 (-0.1, 0.24)	7%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
03 Antipsychotics vs placebo												
Pharm 15.03	01 Olanzapine vs placebo (26/12/8 weeks)	Bogenschutz2004 OLZ Eli Lilly #6253 Schultz2008 OLZ Zanarini2001 OLZ	SIGN: 1+	Significant heterogeneity: random effects model used	Outpatients	None	492/341	RD (random effects) = -0.01 (-0.16, 0.14)	39%	40%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 15.04	02 Aripiprazole vs placebo (8 weeks)	Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	SIGN: 1++	⁽¹⁾ N/A	Outpatients; 100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	26/26	RD = 0 (-0.07, 0.07)	0%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 15.03	04 Ziprasidone vs placebo (12 weeks)	Pascual2008 ZIPRAS	SIGN: 1++	N/A	Outpatients	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	30/30	RD = 0.1 (-0.15, 0.35)	57%	47%	Inconclusive	Very low

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Pharm 15.03	03 Antipsychotics vs placebo	Bogenschutz2004 OLZ Eli Lilly #6253 Schultz2008 OLZ Zanarini2001 OLZ Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZPascual2008 ZIPRAS	SIGN: 1+	Significant heterogeneity: random effects model used (-1)	Outpatients;some axis I disorders	548/397	RD (random effects) = 0.01 (-0.08, 0.09)	39%	38%	Inconclusive	Very low
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04 Antipsychotics (non-placebo comparisons)

Pharm 15.04	01 Loxapine vs chlorpromazine (6 weeks)	Leone1982 LOX/CHLOR	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Relevant	40/40	RD = -0.03 (-0.18, 0.13)	13%	15%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 15.04	02 Olanzapine + fluoxetine vs olanzapine (8 weeks)	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis 1 disorders;	15/16	RD = 0.13 (-0.06, 0.33)	13%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low

05 Anticonvulsants vs placebo

Pharm 15.05	01 Divalproex vs placebo (10 weeks/12 weeks)	Hollander 2003 DVP Hollander 2001 DVP Frankenburg 2002 DVP	SIGN: 1+	Some heterogeneity: Hollander2001 is clear outlier	Mixed group	156/136	RD = 0.03 (-0.09, 0.14)	47%	42%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 15.05	02 Topiramate vs placebo (8 weeks)	Nickel 2005 TOP Nickel 2004 TOP Loew 2006 TOP	SIGN: 1++	Some heterogeneity	Mixed outpatients symptomatic volunteers;Nickel	71/60	RD = -0.04 (-0.13, 0.05)	4%	8%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 15.05	03 Lamotrigine vs placebo (8 weeks)	Tritt 2003 LAM	SIGN: 1++	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers;	18/9	RD = -0.17 (-0.46, 0.12)	6%	22%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 15.05	04 Carbamazepine vs placebo (5 weeks)	De LaFuente 1994 CBZ	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Inpatient; excluded axis I although high levels of depression	10/10	RD = 0.2 (-0.08, 0.48)	20%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 15.05	05 Anticonvulsants vs placebo	De LaFuente 1994 CBZ Nickel 2005 TOP Nickel 2004 TOP Loew 2006 TOP	SIGN: 1+	Some heterogeneity	Mixed	255/215	RD = 0.01 (-0.07, 0.08)	31%	30%	Inconclusive	Very low

06 Other

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Pharm 15.06	01 Omega-3 fatty acids (8 weeks)	Hallahan2007 Omega-3 Zanarini2003 Omega-3	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers or presented at A&E following self-harm	Sparse/imprecise data (-1); research body funded	42/37	RD = -0.08 (-0.24, 0.08)	12%	22%	Inconclusive	Very low
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17 Leaving treatment early due to side-effects

01 Antidepressants vs placebo

Pharm 16.01	01 Amitriptyline vs placebo (5 weeks)	Soloff1989 HAL/AMI	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Inpatient; mix of unstable BPD and SPD; moderate depression at baseline	Sparse/imprecise data (-1)	29/28	RD = 0 (-0.07, 0.07)	0%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
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Pharm 16.01	02 Phenelzine vs placebo (5 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate depression at baseline	Sparse/imprecise data (-1)	38/34	RD = 0 (-0.05, 0.05)	0%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
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Pharm 16.01	03 Fluvoxamine vs placebo (6 weeks)	Rinne2004 FLUVOX	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Mixed outpatients symptomatic; 100% axis I disorders;	Sparse/imprecise data (-1)	20/18	RD = 0.05 (-0.08, 0.18)	5%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
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Pharm 17.01	01 Antidepressants vs placebo	Rinne2004 FLUVOX Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN Soloff1989 HAL/AMI	SIGN: 1+	None	Mixed outpatients symptomatic; 100% axis I disorders;	Sparse/imprecise data (-1)	87/80	RD = 0.01 (-0.03, 0.06)	1%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
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02 Antidepressants (non-placebo comparisons)

Pharm 16.02	02 Fluoxetine vs fluoxetine + olanzapine	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis 1 disorders;	Sparse/imprecise data (-1)	15/14	RD = 0.07 (-0.1, 0.24)	7%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
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Pharm 16.02	03 Fluoxetine vs olanzapine	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis 1 disorders;	Sparse/imprecise data (-1)	14/16	RD = 0.07 (-0.1, 0.24)	7%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
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03 Antipsychotics vs placebo

Pharm 16.03	01 Olanzapine vs placebo	Bogenschutz2004 OLZ Eli Lilly #6253 SCHULTZ2008 Zanarini2001 OLZ	SIGN: 1+	Significant heterogeneity: random effects model used	Outpatients	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	492/341	RD (random effects) = 0.01 (-0.09, 0.1)	8%	11%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 16.03	02 Aripiprazole vs placebo	Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	26/26	RD = 0 (-0.07, 0.07)	0%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 16.03	03 Haloperidol vs placebo	Soloff1989 HAL/AMI Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	SIGN: 1+	None	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate depression at baseline	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	64/62	RD = 0.01 (-0.04, 0.06)	2%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 16.03	03 Antipsychotics vs placebo	All	SIGN: 1+	Significant heterogeneity: random effects model used	Mix	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	582/429	RD (random effects) = 0 (-0.04, 0.04)	7%	9%	Inconclusive	Very low
04 Antipsychotics (non-placebo comparisons)												
Pharm 16.04	01 Loxapine vs chlorpromazine (6 weeks)	Leone1982 LOX/CHLOR	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Outpatients	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); pharmaceutical-sponsored	40/40	RD = -0.05 (-0.14, 0.04)	3%	8%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 16.04	02 Olanzapine + fluoxetine vs olanzapine (8 weeks)	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis I disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	15/16	RD = 0.07 (-0.1, 0.23)	7%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
05 Anticonvulsants vs placebo												
Pharm 16.05	01 Divalproex vs placebo (10 weeks/12 weeks)	Hollander 2001 DVP Frankenburg 2002 DVP Hollander 2003 DVP	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Mixed outpatients symptomatic volunteers; moderate depression at baseline	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	156/136	RD = 0.09 (0.02, 0.17)	14%	5%	Inconclusive	Very low

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Pharm 16.05	02 Topiramate vs placebo (8 weeks)	Nickel 2004 TOP Loew 2006 TOP Nickel 2005 TOP	SIGN: 1++	N/A	Mixed outpatients symptomatic volunteers; Nickel 2005 100% men; 100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (- 1)	71/60	RD = 0 (-0.05, 0.05)	0%	0%	Unlikely	Very low
Pharm 16.05	03 Lamotrigine vs placebo (8 weeks)	Tritt 2003 LAM	SIGN: 1++	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers;	Sparse/ imprecise data (- 1)	18/9	RD = 0 (-0.15, 0.15)	0%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 16.05	04 Carbamazepine vs placebo (5 weeks)	De LaFuente 1994 CBZ	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Inpatient; excluded axis I although high levels of depression	Sparse/ imprecise data (- 1)	10/10	RD = 0 (-0.17, 0.17)	0%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 16.05	05 Anticonvulsants vs placebo	04 Carbamazepine vs placebo (5 weeks)	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Mixed	Sparse/ imprecise data (- 1)	255/215	RD = 0.06 (0.01, 0.11)	9%	3%	Likely (favouring control)	Moderate
06 Other												
Pharm 16.06	01 Omega-3 fatty acids	Hallahan2007 Omega- 3Zanarini2003 Omega- 3	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers or presented at A&E following self- harm	Sparse/ imprecise data (- 1); research body funded	42/37	RD = -0.05 (- 0.15, 0.05)	0%	5%	Inconclusive	Very low
18 Number of participants reporting side effects												
01 Antidepressants vs placebo												
Pharm 17.01	01 Amitriptyline vs placebo (5 weeks)	Soloff1989 HAL/AMI	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Inpatient; mix of unstable BPD and SPD; moderate depression at baseline	Sparse/ imprecise data (- 1)	29/28	RD = 0 (-0.07, 0.07)	0%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 17.01	02 Phenelzine vs placebo (5 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Inpatients discharged after 2 wks; mix of BPD and SPD with axis I disorders; moderate depression at baseline	Sparse/ imprecise data (- 1)	38/34	RD = 0 (-0.05, 0.05)	0%	0%	Unlikely	Moderate

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Pharm 17.01	03 Fluvoxamine vs placebo (6 weeks)	Rinne2004 FLUVOX	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Mixed outpatients symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis I disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	20/18	RD = 0.34 (0.08, 0.61)	90%	56%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 17.01	01 Antidepressants vs placebo	Soloff1989 HAL/AMI Rinne2004 FLUVOX Soloff1989 HAL/AMI	SIGN: 1+	Significant heterogeneity: use individual analyses (also uses 2 arms of Soloff1989)	Mixed outpatients symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis I disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	87/80	RD = 0.08 (0.01, 0.15)	21%	13%	Inconclusive	Very low

02 Antidepressants (non-placebo comparisons)

Pharm 17.02	02 Fluoxetine vs fluoxetine + olanzapine	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis 1 disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	14/15	RD = -0.23 (-0.56, 0.1)	57%	80%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 17.02	03 Fluoxetine vs olanzapine	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; 100% axis 1 disorders;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	14/16	RD = -0.43 (-0.69, -0.17)	57%	100%	Inconclusive	Very low

04 Antipsychotics (placebo comparisons)

Pharm 17.03	01 Olanzapine vs placebo	Bogenschutz2004 OLZ Eli Lilly #6253	SIGN: 1+	Significant heterogeneity: random effects model used (-1)	Outpatients	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	318/170	RD (random effects) = 0.1 (-0.05, 0.25)	63%	54%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 17.03	02 Aripiprazole vs placebo	Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	SIGN: 1++	N/A	Outpatients; 100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	26/26	RD = 0 (-0.07, 0.07)	0%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 17.03	03 Haloperidol vs placebo	Soloff1989 HAL/AMI Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	SIGN: 1++	N/A	Outpatients; 100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	64/62	RD = 0 (-0.04, 0.04)	0%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 17.03	03 Antipsychotics vs placebo (5 weeks)	Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN 03 Haloperidol vs placebo (5 weeks)	SIGN: 1++	Significant heterogeneity: random effects model used (-1)	Outpatients; 100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	408/258	RD (random effects) = 0.02 (-0.03, 0.07)	49%	36%	Inconclusive	Very low

05 Anticonvulsants vs placebo

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Pharm 17.05	01 Divalproex vs placebo (10 weeks/12 weeks)	Hollander 2001 DVP Frankenburg 2002 DVP Hollander 2003 DVP	Sign 1+	No significant heterogeneity	Hollander2001: Symptomatic volunteers; 100% BDII; Hollander2003: Outpatients; includes cluster B & intermittent explosive disorder; Frankenberg: Symptomatic volunteers; 100%	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	156/136	RD = 0.1 (0.02, 0.17)	74%	74%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 17.05	02 Topiramate vs placebo (8 weeks)	Nickel 2004 TOP Nickel 2005 TOP	Sign 1+	None	2004: Symptomatic volunteers; 2005: Mixed outpatients symptomatic volunteers; 100% men; 100% axis I disorder	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	43/43	RD = 0 (-0.06, 0.06)	0%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 17.05	03 Lamotrigine vs placebo (8 weeks)	Tritt 2003 LAM	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	18/18	RD = 0 (-0.1, 0.1)	0%	0%	Unlikely	Moderate
Pharm 17.05	04 Carbamazepine vs placebo (5 weeks)	De LaFuente 1994 CBZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Inpatient; excluded axis I although high levels of depression	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	10/10	RD = 0 (-0.17, 0.17)	0%	0%	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 17.05	05 Anticonvulsants vs placebo	De LaFuente 1994 CBZ Tritt 2003 LAM Nickel 2004 TOP Nickel 2005 TOP Frankenburg 2002 DVP Frankenburg 2002 DVP Hollander 2001 DVP	Sign 1+	No significant heterogeneity	Mixed	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	227/207	RD = 0.06 (0.01, 0.12)	51%	48%	Likely (favouring control)	Very low

06 Other

	Hallahan2007 Omega-3	Hallahan2007 Omega-3	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Presented at A&E following self-harm	Sparse/imprecise data (-1); research body funded	22/27	RD = 0.34 (0.1, 0.58)	45%	11%	Likely (favouring placebo)	Moderate
	Zanarini2003 Omega-3	Zanarini2003 Omega-3	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers	Sparse/imprecise data (-1); research body funded	20/10	RD = 0 (-0.23, 0.23)	10%	10%	Unlikely	Moderate
Pharm 17.06	01 Omega-3 fatty acids	Zanarini2003 Omega-3	SIGN: 1+	Significant heterogeneity - studies not combinable	As above		42/37	N/A				N/A

22 Side effects: weight or weight change (kg)

01 Antidepressants

Pharm 18.01	01 Olanzapine + fluoxetine vs fluoxetine (8 weeks)	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; mild depression at baseline	Sparse/imprecise data (-1); research body funded	13/13	WMD = 1 (-0.39, 2.39)			Unlikely	Moderate
Pharm 18.01	02 Fluoxetine vs olanzapine	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; mild depression at baseline	Sparse/imprecise data (-1); research body funded	13/16	WMD = -2.5 (-4.29, -0.72)			Likely (favouring fluoxetine)	Moderate

02 Antipsychotics

Pharm 18.02	01 Olanzapine vs placebo	Bogenschutz2004 OLZ Eli Lilly #6253 (hi)Schultz2008 OLZ Zanarini2001 OLZ	Sign 1+	N/A	Various	Skewed data (-1); pharma funded	334/334	WMD (random effects) = 2.96 (2.37, 3.55)			Likely (favouring placebo)	Moderate
Pharm 18.02	03 Olanzapine + fluoxetine vs olanzapine (8 weeks)	Zanarini2004 OLZ+FLX	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; mild depression at baseline	Sparse/imprecise/skewed data (-1); research body	13/16	WMD = -1.5 (-2.91, -0.09)			Likely (favouring olz + fluox)	Low

03 Anticonvulsants

Pharm 18.03	01 Divalproex vs placebo (26 weeks)	Frankenburg 2002 DVP	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; mild depression at baseline	Sparse/imprecise/skewed data (-1); research body	20/10	WMD = 1.04 (-0.54, 2.62)			Inconclusive	Very low
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Pharm 18.03	02 Topiramate vs placebo (10 weeks/8 weeks)	Nickel 2005 TOP Nickel 2004 TOP Loew 2006 TOP	Sign 1+	None	Symptomatic volunteers; mild depression at baseline	Sparse/ imprecise data (- 1); research body funded	69/58	WMD = -4.93 (- 20.34, 10.48)	Inconclusive	Very low
Pharm 18.03	03 Lamotrigine vs placebo (8 weeks)	Tritt 2003 LAM	Sign 1+	N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; mild depression at baseline	Sparse/ imprecise data (- 1); research body funded	18/9	WMD = -1.3 (- 9.82, 7.22)	Inconclusive	Very low

Forest plot	Description	Study Ids	Quality	Consistency	Directness	Other factors	N treatment group/N control	Effect size (SMD)	Absolute statistic (WMD)	Likelihood of clinically important effect	Overall quality
01 Placebo-controlled trials - efficacy data											
Pharm 01.02	Anger: clinician-rated	Tritt 2003 LAM Nickel 2004 TOP Nickel 2005 TOP Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity - sensitivity analysis performed	Mix	None	85/65	SMD = -2.15 (-2.57, -1.73)	WMD = -6.81 (-7.72, -5.91)	N/A	
Pharm 01.03	Anger: clinician-rated - sensitivity	Nickel 2005 TOP Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ Tritt 2003 LAM	Sign 1+	No significant heterogeneity	Mix	None	66/55	SMD = -1.97 (-2.41, -1.52)	WMD = -7.12 (-8.39, -5.85)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	High
Pharm 01.05	Depression - clinician-rated	Hallahan2007 Omega-3Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZ Pascual2008 ZIPRAS Soloff1989 HAL/AMI Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN Zanarini2003 Omega-3	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity - sensitivity analysis performed	Mix	Skewed data (-1)	144/131	SMD = -0.5 (-0.74, -0.25)	WMD = -0.5 (-0.74, -0.25)	N/A	
Pharm 01.06	Depression - clinician-rated - sensitivity analysis	Hallahan2007 Omega-3Pascual2008 ZIPRAS Soloff1989 HAL/AMI Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN Zanarini2003 Omega-3	Sign 1+	None	Mix	Skewed data (-1)	118/105	SMD = -0.35 (-0.61, -0.08)	WMD = -2.42 (-4.3, -0.54)	Unlikely	Moderate
Pharm 01.07	Depression - self-rated	Hollander 2001 DVP De LaFuente 1994 CBZFrankenburg 2002 DVPL Loew 2006 TOP Soloff1989 HAL/AMI Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity - random effects model used (-1)	Mix	Skewed data (-1)	201/184	SMD (random effects) = -0.72 (-1.06, -0.38)	WMD (random effects) = -6.8 (-10.75, -2.84)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Low

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Pharm 01.08	01 SCL-90 hostility subscale	De LaFuente 1994 CBZFrankenburg 2002 DVPLoew 2006 TOP Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZSchultz2 008 OLZ Soloff1989 HAL/AMI Soloff1993	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity - sensitivity analysis performed	Mix	None	299/289	SMD = -0.56 (- 0.73, -0.39)	WMD = - 0.35 (-0.49, - 0.22)	N/A	
Pharm 01.09	09 Hostility - sensitivity analysis	De LaFuente 1994 CBZFrankenburg 2002 DVPSchultz2008 OLZ Soloff1989 HAL/AMI Soloff1993	Sign 1+	No significant heterogeneity	Mix	None	245/235	SMD = -0.37 (- 0.56, -0.19)	WMD = - 0.28 (-0.41, - 0.14)	Unlikely	High
Pharm 01.10	10 Impulsivenes s	Soloff1993 Pascual2008 ZIPRAS Soloff1989 HAL/AMI Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	None	Mix	None	88/86	SMD = 0.02 (- 0.28, 0.32)	WMD = 0.3 (- 6.65, 7.24)	Unlikely	High
Pharm 01.11	11 Mental distress	Eli Lilly #6253 (hi)SCHULTZ2008 Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZSoloff199 3 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity - sensitivity analysis performed	Mix	Skewed/inconcl usive data (-1)	336/331	SMD (random effects) = -0.32 (- 0.75, 0.1)	WMD = - 0.14 (-0.54, 0.27)	N/A	Very low
Pharm 01.11	02 GSI - sensitivity analysis	Eli Lilly #6253 (hi)SCHULTZ2008 Soloff1993 HAL/PHEN	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity - random effects model used (-1)	Mix	Skewed data (-1)	310/305	SMD (random effects) = -0.12 (- 0.42, 0.18)	WMD = - 0.08 (-0.26, 0.1)	Inconclusive	Very low

02 Placebo-controlled trials - acceptability/tolerability data

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Pharm 02.01	01 Leaving treatment early for any reason	De LaFuente 1994 CBZFrankenburg 2002 DVPHollander 2001 DVP Hollander 2003 DVP Loew 2006 TOP Nickel 2004 TOP Nickel 2005 TOP Tritt 2003 LAM Rinne2004 FLUVOX Bogenschutz2004 OLZ Eli Lilly #6253 SCHULTZ2008 Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZZanarini 2001 OLZ Hallahan2007 Omega- 3Zanarini2003	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity - random effects model used (-1)	Mix	None	835/637	RR = 0.94 (0.74, 1.20)	RD = -0.02 (- 0.08, 0.05)	33% vs 33%	Unlikely	Moderate
Pharm 02.02	02 Leaving treatment due to side effects	De LaFuente 1994 CBZFrankenburg 2002 DVPHollander 2001 DVP Hollander 2003 DVP Loew 2006 TOP Nickel 2004 TOP Nickel 2005 TOP Tritt 2003 LAM Rinne2004 FLUVOX Bogenschutz2004 OLZ Eli Lilly #6253 SCHULTZ2008 Nickel2006 ARIPIPRAZZanarini 2001 OLZ Hallahan2007 Omega- 3Zanarini2003 Omega-3Soloff1989 HAL/AMI Soloff1993	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity - random effects model used (-1)	Mix	None	966/761	RR = 1.08 (0.62, 3.54)	RD = 0.02 (- 0.01, 0.04)	7% vs 5%	Inconclusive	Very low

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Pharm 02.03	03 Number reporting side effects	Frankenburg 2002 DVP/Hollander 2003 DVP Rinne2004 FLUVOX Bogenschutz2004 OLZ Hallahan2007 Omega- 3Zanarini2003 Omega-3	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity - random effects model used (-1)	Mix	None	466/432	RR = 1.28 (1.14, 1.43)	RD = (random effects) 0 (0, 0)	32% vs 26%	Likely (favouring placebo)	Moderate
Pharm 02.04	04 Weight	Bogenschutz2004 OLZ Zanarini2001 OLZ Frankenburg 2002 DVPLoew 2006 TOP, Nijs 1 2004	Sign 1+	None	Mix	None	142/105	WMD = 1.6 (0.64, 2.57)			Likely (favouring placebo)	High
Pharm 02.05	05 Self-harm	Hallahan2007 Omega- 3Zanarini2003	Sign 1+	None	Mix	None	39/30	RR = 1.04 (0.47, 2.31)			Likely (favouring placebo)	High

Forest plot	Description	Study Ids	Quality	Consistency	Directness (100% BPD)	Other factors	N treatment group/N control	Effect size (SMD)	Absolute statistic (WMD or % with event in each treatment and control groups)	Likelihood of clinically important effect	Overall quality	
Complex interventions												
Anger measures												
Psych 01.01	01 State-trait anger scale	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse data (-1)	13/13	SMD = -0.98 (-1.81, -0.16)	WMD = -7.93 (-13.93, -1.93)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate	
Psych 01.01	02 State-trait anger scale (12-month follow-up)	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse data (-1)	8/7	SMD = -0.91 (-1.99, 0.18)	WMD = -6.49 (-13.16, 0.18)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate	
Psych 01.01	03 State-trait anger scale (24-month follow-up)	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	8/11	SMD = -0.59 (-1.52, 0.35)	WMD = -5.2 (-12.66, 2.26)	Inconclusive	Very low	
Anxiety measures (clinician-rated)												
Psych 01.02	01 HARS	Koons 2001 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	25% substance abuse	Sparse data (-1)	10/10	SMD = -1.22 (-2.2, -0.25)	WMD = -13.1 (-22.08, -4.12)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate	
Psych 01.02	02 STAI state anxiety	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse data (-1)	19/19	SMD = -1.22 (-1.92, -0.52)	WMD = -13 (-19.65, -6.35)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate	
Psych 01.02	03 STAI state anxiety (18-month follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse data (-1)	19/14	SMD = -3.49 (-4.63, -2.36)	WMD = -28.8 (-34.81, -22.79)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate	
Anxiety measures (self-rated)												
Psych 01.03	01 Beck Anxiety Inventory	Turner 2000 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse and skewed data (-1)	12/12	SMD = -0.7 (-1.53, 0.13)	WMD = -4.66 (-9.81, 0.49)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate	
Depression measures (clinician-rated)												
Psych 01.04	01 HRSD at endpoint	Turner 2000 DBT Koons 2001 DBT Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+		No significant heterogeneity	High axis I comorbidities; some substance abuse	Skewed data (-1)	72/61	SMD = -0.57 (-0.92, -0.22)	WMD = -4.34 (-6.68, -2)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Depression measures (self-rated)												

Psych 01.05	05 Depression outcomes (total, self- rated)	Koons 2001 DBT Turner 2000 DBT Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+		No significant heterogeneity	Some high axis I comorbidities and substance abuse	Skewed data (- 1)	41/41	SMD = -1.49 (- 1.99, -0.99)	WMD = -12.68 (-16.11, -9.26)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 01.06	05 BDI (18-month follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A			22/16	SMD = -1.15 (- 1.85, -0.45)	WMD = -8.5 (- 13.83, -3.17)		Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Self-harm and suicide-related measures (continuous data)												
Psych 01.07	01 Self-harm (non- suicidal)	Linehan 2006 DBT Linehan'91 coh2 DBTvan den Bosch'02 DBT	SIGN 1+		No significant heterogeneity	Some axis I comorbidity including substance use	Skewed data (- 1)	92/93	SMD = -0.18 (- 0.47, 0.11)	WMD = -0.17 (- 2.15, 1.82)	Unlikely	Moderate
Psych 01.07	02 Self-harm and suicidal acts reported together	Koons 2001 DBT Turner 2000 DBT	SIGN 1+		Some heterogeneity;	Some axis I comorbidity including substance use	Skewed data (- 1)	22/22	SMD (random effects) = -0.77 (-1.65, 0.11)	WMD (random effects) = -2.50 (-6.63, 1.62)	Inconclusiv e	Very low
Psych 01.07	03 Self-harm with suicidal intent	van den Bosch'02 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A			Sparse and skewed data (- 1)	20/24	SMD = -0.32 (- 0.91, 0.28)	WMD = -0.2 (- 0.55, 0.15)	Inconclusiv e	Very low
Psych 01.07	04 Beck Suicidal Ideation Scale/OAS- suicidality	Koons 2001 DBT Turner 2000 DBT	SIGN 1+		No significant heterogeneity	Some axis I comorbidity including substance use	Sparse and skewed data (- 1)	22/22	SMD = -1.04 (- 1.68, -0.4)	WMD = -10.14 (-15.86, -4.43)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 01.07	05 Suicide attempts (5- year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A			Sparse and skewed data (- 1)	22/19	SMD = -0.63 (- 1.26, 0)	WMD = -0.47 (- 0.9, -0.04)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 01.07	06 No A&E visits (presumed self-harm; 5- year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A			Sparse and skewed data (- 1)	22/19	SMD = -1.4 (- 2.09, -0.7)	WMD = -5.63 (- 8.23, -3.03)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Self-harm and suicide-related measures (dichotomous data)												
Psych 01.8	01 Self-harm	Bateman1999 MBT van den Bosch'02 DBT	SIGN 1+	None			None	46/50	RR = 0.54 (0.34, 0.86)	33% 58%	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate

Psych 01.8	03 No of suicide attempts	Bateman1999 MBT Linehan 2006 DBT Linehan'91 coht2 DBTvan den Bosch'02 DBT	SIGN 1+		Significant heterogeneity; random effects model used (-1)	High axis I comorbidities; some substance abuse	None	130/130	RR (random effects) = 0.37 (0.16, 0.87)	15%	37%	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate	
Psych 01.8	05 No of suicide attempts (5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A			Sparse data (-1)	22/19	RR = 0.31 (0.14, 0.7)	23%	74%	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate	
Psych 01.8	06 Hospital admission for self-harm	Carter unpub DBT	SIGN 1++	N/A		100% self-harm	Sparse data (-1)	38/35	RR = 0.82 (0.36, 1.89)	21%	26%	Inconclusive	Very low	
Mental distress														
Psych 01.9	01 GSI	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A			Sparse data (-1)	19/19	SMD = -0.39 (-1.03, 0.26)			WMD = -0.3 (-0.78, 0.18)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 01.9	02 GSI (18-month follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A			Sparse data (-1)	21/15	SMD = -2.09 (-2.93, -1.25)			WMD = -1.2 (-1.56, -0.84)	Inconclusive	Very low
Service use measures (dichotomous)														
Psych 01.10	01 Emergency Department Visits for Psychiatric reasons	Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		High axis I comorbidities; some substance abuse	Sparse data (-1)	50/39	RR = 0.61 (0.42, 0.89)	44%	72%	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate	
Psych 01.10	02 Emergency Department Visits for Psychiatric reasons (24 months)	Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		High axis I comorbidities; some substance abuse	Sparse data (-1)	46/35	RR = 0.65 (0.35, 1.23)	26%	40%	Inconclusive	Very low	
Psych 01.10	03 Emergency Department Visits for suicide ideation (endpoint)	Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		High axis I comorbidities; some substance abuse	Sparse data (-1)	50/39	RR = 0.48 (0.22, 1.04)	16%	33%	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate	
Psych 01.10	04 Emergency Department Visits for suicide ideation (24 months)	Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		High axis I comorbidities; some substance abuse	Sparse data (-1)	46/35	RR = 0.63 (0.21, 1.91)	11%	17%	Inconclusive	Very low	

Psych 01.10	07 Hospital admission for psychiatric reasons	Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	High axis I comorbidities; some substance abuse	Sparse data (- 1)	88/74	RR = 0.54 (0.32, 0.91)	19%	35%	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 01.10	09 Hospital admission for psychiatric reasons (24-month follow-up)	Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	High axis I comorbidities; some substance abuse	Sparse data (- 1)	46/35	RR = 1.05 (0.47, 2.32)	24%	23%	Inconclusiv e	Very low
Psych 01.10	10 Hospital admission for suicidal ideation	Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	High axis I comorbidities; some substance abuse	Sparse data (- 1)	50/39	RR = 0.28 (0.11, 0.71)	10%	36%	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 01.10	11 Hospital admission for suicidal ideation (24- month follow-up)	Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	High axis I comorbidities; some substance abuse	Sparse data (- 1)	46/35	RR = 0.89 (0.33, 2.41)	15%	17%	Inconclusiv e	Very low
Psych 01.10	12 Hospital admission for self-harm	Carter unpub DBT	SIGN 1++	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse data (- 1)	38/35	RR = 0.82 (0.36, 1.89)	21%	26%	Inconclusiv e	Very low
Psych 01.10	13 No on medication at endpoint	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse data (- 1)	19/19	RR = 0.47 (0.25, 0.88)	37%	79%	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate

Service use outcomes (continuous data)

Psych 01.11	01 No days hospitalised	Carter unpub DBT Linehan1991 coht 1&2Turner 2000	SIGN 1+	Significant heterogeneity; random effects model used (-1)	Some self- harm, axis I comorbidity and substance abuse	Skewed data (- 1)	69/67	SMD (random effects) = -0.56 (-1.12, -0.01)	WMD (random effects) = -5.42 (-14.01, 3.17)	19%	26%	Inconclusiv e	Very low
Psych 01.11	02 No days hospitalised (24- month follow-up)	Linehan1991 coht 1&2	SIGN 1+	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse and skewed data (- 1)	19/18	SMD = -2.38 (- 3.24, -1.52)	WMD = -0.45 (- 0.57, -0.33)	19%	26%	Unlikely	Moderate
Psych 01.11	03 No days hospitalised (self-harm only)	Carter unpub DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse data (- 1)	38/35	SMD = -0.27 (- 0.73, 0.19)	WMD = -0.72 (- 1.97, 0.53)	19%	26%	Unlikely	Moderate
Psych 01.11	04 No days hospitalised (Linehan cohort 2) 18- month data	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse data (- 1)	8/7	SMD = -0.8 (- 1.87, 0.26)	WMD = -0.29 (- 0.65, 0.07)	19%	26%	Unlikely	Moderate

Psych 01.11	05 No days hospitalised (Linehan cohort 2) 24-month data	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse data (-1)	8/7	SMD = -4.94 (-7.24, -2.65)	WMD = -2.22 (-2.64, -1.8)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 01.11	06 No days hospitalised (5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse and skewed data (-1)	22/19	SMD = -1.51 (-2.22, -0.81)	WMD = -5.93 (-8.47, -3.39)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 01.11	07 No of admissions (any psychiatric)	Carter unpub DBT	SIGN 1++	N/A		Sparse and skewed data (-1)	38/35	SMD = -0.12 (0.58, 0.34)	WMD = -0.3 (-1.42, 0.82)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 01.11	08 No of admissions (self-harm)	Carter unpub DBT	SIGN 1++	N/A		Sparse and skewed data (-1)	38/35	SMD = -0.16 (0.62, 0.3)	WMD = -4.38 (-17.31, 8.55)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 01.11	09 No A&E visits (presumed self-harm; 5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse and skewed data (-1)	22/19	SMD = -1.4 (-2.09, -0.7)	WMD = -5.63 (-8.23, -3.03)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 01.11	10 No years further psychiatric outpatient treatment (5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse and skewed data (-1)	22/19	SMD = -0.91 (1.56, -0.26)	WMD = -1.6 (-2.64, -0.56)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 01.11	11 No years on 3 or more drugs (5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse and skewed data (-1)	22/19	SMD = -1.29 (1.97, -0.61)	WMD = -1.7 (-2.56, -0.84)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
BDP symptoms											
Psych 01.12	01 No of BPD criteria (DSM)	Koons 2001 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	25% substance misuse	Sparse and skewed data (-1)	10/10	SMD = -0.6 (2.34, 1.14)	WMD = -0.29 (-1.17, 0.59)	Unlikely	Moderate
Psych 01.12	03 ZAN-BPD total (5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse and skewed data (-1)	22/19	SMD = -9.6 (12.83, -6.38)	WMD = -1.79 (-2.53, -1.06)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Social functioning											
Psych 01.13	01 Social Adjustment Scale - work performance (18 months)	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse data (-1)	7/7	SMD = -0.33 (0.9, 0.24)	WMD = -0.57 (-1.64, 0.51)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 01.13	02 Social Adjustment Scale - anxious remuneration (18 months)	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse data (-1)	6/7	SMD = -0.71 (1.56, 0.14)	WMD = -0.79 (-1.94, 0.36)	Inconclusive	Very low

Psych 01.13	03 Social Adjustment Scale - employment performance (18 months)	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse data (-1)	5/5	SMD = -0.8 (-1.4, -0.2)	WMD = -1.48 (-2.98, 0.01)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 01.13	04 Social Adjustment Scale - work performance (24 months)	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse data (-1)	7/7	SMD = -0.44 (-1.18, 0.3)	WMD = -0.58 (-1.66, 0.5)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 01.13	05 Social Adjustment Scale - anxious remuneration (24 months)	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse data (-1)	6/7	SMD = -0.44 (-1.42, 0.54)	WMD = -0.45 (-1.56, 0.66)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 01.13	06 Social Adjustment Scale - employment performance (24 months)	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse data (-1)	4/4	SMD = -1.04 (-1.73, -0.35)	WMD = -1.81 (-3.67, 0.05)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Employment-related outcomes											
Psych 01.14	01 No years employment (5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse and skewed data (-1)	22/19	SMD = -0.92 (-1.57, -0.27)	WMD = -2 (-3.29, -0.71)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
General functioning											
Psych 01.15	02 GAF (5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse data (-1)	22/19	SMD = -0.74 (-1.38, -0.1)	WMD = -6.5 (-11.58, -1.42)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Acceptability of treatment											
Psych 01.16	01 Leaving treatment early for any reason (vs modified psychodynamic supportive psychotherapy)	Bateman1999 MBT Linehan 2006 DBT Linehan1991 DBT Turner 2000 DBT van den Bosch'02 Clarkin 1994 DBT-TRA	SIGN 1+	No significant heterogeneity	High axis I comorbidity	None	147/147	RR = 0.61 (0.43, 0.86)	RR (random effects) = 2.07 (0.98, 4.38)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 01.16	02 Leaving treatment early for any reason (vs modified psychodynamic supportive psychotherapy)	Clarkin 1994 DBT-TRA	SIGN 1+	Significant heterogeneity; random effects model used (-1)	High axis I comorbidity	Sparse data (-1)	29/30			Inconclusive	Very low

Forest plot	Description	Study Ids	Quality	Consistency	Directness (all 100% BPD)	Other factors	N treatment group/N control	Effect size (SMD)	Absolute statistic (WMD or % with event)	Likelihood of clinically important effect	Overall quality
Individual psychological therapies											
Anxiety measures											
Psych 02.01	01 STAI state anxiety	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A			Sparse data (-1) 52/47	SMD = -0.03 (-0.43, 0.36)	WMD = -0.5 (-6.48, 5.48)	Unlikely	Moderate
Psych 02.01	02 STAI state anxiety (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A			Sparse and inconclusive data (-2) 53/48	SMD = -0.18 (-0.57, 0.21)	WMD = -2.7 (-8.6, 3.2)	Inconclusive	Very low
Depression measures (self-report)											
Psych 02.02	01 BDI	Blum2008 STEPPS Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	None			Inconclusive/skewed data (-2) 117/119	SMD = -0.18 (-0.44, 0.07)	WMD = -2.92 (-6.95, 1.11)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 02.02	02 BDI (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A			Sparse and skewed data (-1) 53/48	SMD = -0.15 (-0.54, 0.24)	WMD = -2.3 (-8.36, 3.76)	Unlikely	Moderate
Impulsiveness measures											
Psych 02.03	01 Barratt Impulsiveness Scale (STEPPS + TAU vs TAU)	Blum2008 STEPPS	SIGN 1+	N/A			Inconclusive/sparse data (-2) 65/59	SMD = -0.29 (-0.64, 0.07)	WMD = -4.1 (-9.09, 0.89)	Inconclusive	Very low
Mental distress measures											
Psych 02.04	01 GSI	Blum2008 STEPPS Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	None			Skewed data (-1) 117/106	SMD = -0.18 (-0.45, 0.08)	WMD = -0.07 (-0.43, 0.29)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 02.04	02 GSI (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A			Sparse and skewed data (-1) 53/48	SMD = -0.12 (-0.51, 0.27)	WMD = -0.12 (-0.51, 0.27)	Unlikely	Moderate
Self-harm measures (continuous data)											
Psych 02.05	01 No of suicidal acts	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A			Sparse data (-1) 53/48	SMD = -0.5 (-0.9, -0.11)	WMD = -0.41 (-0.72, -0.1)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 02.05	03 No of suicidal acts (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A			Sparse data (-1) 53/48	SMD = -0.36 (-0.75, 0.04)	WMD = -0.86 (-1.82, 0.1)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Self-harm measures (dichotomous data)											

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Psych	02.06	01 Self-harm (1-year follow-up)	Blum2008 STEPPS	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse and inconclusive data (-2)	61/47	RR = 1.03 (0.71, 1.48)	52%	51%	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych	02.06	02 Number of suicide attempts	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse and inconclusive data (-2)	53/48	RR = 0.78 (0.47, 1.27)	34%	44%	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych	02.06	03 Number of suicide attempts (1-year follow-up)	Blum2008 STEPPS	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse and inconclusive data (-2)	61/47	RR = 1.08 (0.53, 2.21)	23%	21%	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych	02.06	04 Number of suicide attempts (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse and inconclusive data (-2)	53/48	RR = 0.8 (0.54, 1.2)	43%	54%	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych	02.06	05 Parasuicide (attempted suicide + self-harm; total with >= 1 event) 6 months	Chanen unpub	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse and inconclusive data (-2)	41/37	RR = 0.81 (0.5, 1.31)	41%	51%	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych	02.06	06 Parasuicide (attempted suicide + self-harm; total with >= 1 event) 12 months	Chanen unpub	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse data (-1)	41/37	RR = 1.8 (0.88, 3.72)	39%	22%	Likely (favouring control)	Moderate
Psych	02.06	07 Parasuicide (attempted suicide + self-harm; total with >= 1 event) 24 months	Chanen unpub	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse and inconclusive data (-2)	41/37	RR = 0.98 (0.51, 1.87)	32%	32%	Inconclusive	Very low
Service-use measures												
Psych	02.07	01 No A&E contacts	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse, skewed and inconclusive data (-2)	53/48	SMD = -0.05 (-0.44, 0.34), WMD = -0.24 (-1.98, 1.5)			Inconclusive	Very low
Psych	02.07	02 No A&E contacts (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse, skewed and inconclusive data (-2)	53/48	SMD = -0.01 (-0.4, 0.38), WMD = -0.15 (-4.26, 3.96)			Inconclusive	Very low
Psych	02.07	03 Admission for psychiatric reasons	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse, skewed and inconclusive data (-2)	53/48	SMD = -0.14 (-0.53, 0.25), WMD = -0.44 (-1.67, 0.79)			Inconclusive	Very low
Psych	02.07	04 Admission for psychiatric reasons (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse, skewed and inconclusive data (-2)	53/48	SMD = -0.2 (-0.59, 0.19), WMD = -0.67 (-1.98, 0.64)			Inconclusive	Very low
Service-use outcomes (dichotomous)												

Psych 02.08	01 Emergency Department visits (1-year follow-up)	Blum2008 STEPPS	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	65/59	RR = 0.8 (0.38, 1.68)	32%	37%	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 02.08	02 Hospital admission (reason not stated; 1-year follow-up)	Blum2008 STEPPS	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	65/59	RR = 0.81 (0.37, 1.77)	26%	31%	Inconclusive	Very low
BPD symptoms											
Psych 02.09	01 ZAN-BPD	Blum2008 STEPPS	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse, skewed and inconclusive data (-2)	65/59	SMD = -0.45 (-0.81, -0.1)	WMD = -3.6 (-6.37, 0.83)		Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 02.09	02 SCID-II BPD total 6 months	Chanen unpub CAT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	41/37	SMD = -0.1 (-0.55, 0.34)	WMD = -0.37 (-1.95, 1.21)		Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 02.09	03 SCID-II BPD total 12 months	Chanen unpub CAT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	41/37	SMD = -0.15 (-0.59, 0.3)	WMD = -0.59 (-2.34, 1.16)		Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 02.09	04 SCID-II BPD total 24 months	Chanen unpub CAT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	41/37	SMD = -0.06 (-0.5, 0.39)	WMD = -0.27 (-2.39, 1.85)		Inconclusive	Very low
Social functioning measures											
Psych 02.10	01 SFQ	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse data (-1)	52/47	SMD = 0 (-0.39, 0.39)	WMD = 0 (-1.78, 1.78)		Unlikely	Moderate
Psych 02.10	02 SFQ (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse data (-1)	53/48	SMD = 0.14 (-0.26, 0.53)	WMD = 0.7 (-1.32, 2.72)		Unlikely	Moderate
General functioning											
Psych 02.11	01 GAS	Blum2008 STEPPS	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse data (-1)	64/59	SMD = -0.55 (-0.91, -0.19)	WMD = -7 (-11.45, -2.55)		Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 02.11	02 SOFAS - 6 months	Chanen unpub CAT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	41/37	SMD = 0.07 (-0.37, 0.52)	WMD = 0.79 (-3.99, 5.57)		Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 02.11	03 SOFAS - 12 months	Chanen unpub CAT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	41/37	SMD = 0.01 (-0.43, 0.46)	WMD = 0.16 (-4.98, 5.3)		Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 02.11	04 SOFAS - 24 months	Chanen unpub CAT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	41/37	SMD = -0.22 (-0.66, 0.23)	WMD = -2.6 (-7.87, 2.67)		Inconclusive	Very low
Quality of life measures											

Psych	02.12	01 EuroQOL	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse, skewed and inconclusive data (-1)	52/47	SMD = 0.29 (-0.11, 0.68)	WMD = 0.11 (-0.04, 0.26)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych	02.12	02 EuroQOL (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse, skewed and inconclusive data (-2)	53/48	SMD = -0.23 (-0.62, 0.16)	WMD = -0.08 (-0.21, 0.05)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych	02.12	03 WHO QOL total score (schema-focused CT vs transference focused psychotherapy)	Giesen-Bloo2006 SCHE	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse data (-1)	44/42	SMD = 0 (-0.42, 0.42)	WMD = 0 (-0.1, 0.1)	Unlikely	Moderate
Psych	02.12	04 WHO QOL total score (24-month follow-up) (schema-focused CT vs transference focused psychotherapy)	Giesen-Bloo2006 SCHE	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse data (-1)	44/42	SMD = -0.6 (-1.03, -0.16)	WMD = -0.19 (-0.32, -0.06)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych	02.12	05 WHO QOL total score (32-month follow-up) (schema-focused CT vs transference focused psychotherapy)	Giesen-Bloo2006 SCHE	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse data (-1)	44/42	SMD = -2.01 (-2.53, -1.49)	WMD = -0.5 (-0.6, -0.4)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Acceptability of treatment											
Psych	02.13	01 Leaving the study early for any reason (therapy vs TAU)	Blum2008 STEPPS Chanen unpub CAT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Inconclusive data (-1)	191/166	RR = 1.28 (0.82, 1.99)	39%	28%	Inconclusive Very low
Psych	02.13	02 Leaving the study early for any reason (schema-focused CT vs transference focused psychotherapy)	Giesen-Bloo2006 SCHE	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse data (-1)	45/43	RR = 0.52 (0.3, 0.92)	27%	51%	Very likely (favouring treatment) Moderate

Forest plot	Description	Study Ids	Quality	Consistency	Directness (all 100% BPD)	Other factors	N treatment group/N control	Effect size (SMD)	Absolute statistic (WMD)	Likelihood of clinically important effect	Overall quality
Brief psychological therapies											
Anxiety Measures											
Psych 03.01	01 HADS anxiety	Tyrer 2004 MACT	SIGN 1++	N/A		Sparse data (-1)	31/33	SMD = 0.01 (-0.48, 0.5)	WMD = 0.06 (-2.29, 2.41)	Unlikely	Moderate
Depression measures											
Psych 03.02	01 MADRS (MACT vs TAU)	Tyrer 2004 MACT	SIGN 1++	N/A		Sparse, skewed and inconclusive data (-2)	31/33	SMD = 0.07 (-0.42, 0.56)	WMD = 0.74 (-4.42, 5.9)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 03.02	02 HADS depression (MACT vs TAU)	Tyrer 2004 MACT	SIGN 1++	N/A		Sparse, skewed and inconclusive data (-2)	31/33	SMD = 0.12 (-0.37, 0.61)	WMD = 0.69 (-2.12, 3.5)	Inconclusive	Very low
Self-harm and suicidal acts (reported together) (continuous)											
Psych 03.04	01 Self-harm and suicidal acts reported together	Weinberg 2006 MACT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse and skewed data (-1)	15/13	SMD = -0.88 (-1.67, -0.1)	WMD = -3.03 (-5.68, -0.38)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 03.04	02 Self-harm and suicidal acts reported together (6-month follow-up)	Weinberg 2006 MACT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse, skewed and inconclusive data (-2)	15/15	SMD = -0.51 (-1.24, 0.22)	WMD = -4.71 (-11.16, 1.74)	Inconclusive	Very low
Self-harm measures (dichotomous)											
Psych 03.05	01 No with >=1 episode of parasuicide	Tyrer 2004 MACT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse data (-1)	34/36	RR = 0.97 (0.88, 1.07)	94% 97%	Unlikely	Moderate
General functioning measures											
Psych 03.07	01 GAF	Tyrer 2004 MACT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse and inconclusive data (-2)	31/33	SMD = -0.17 (-0.67, 0.32)	WMD = -2.76 (-10.46, 4.94)	Inconclusive	Very low

Forest plot	Description	Study Ids	Quality	Consistency	Directness (all 100% BPD)	Other factors	N treatment group/N control	Effect size (SMD)	Absolute statistic (WMD)	Likelihood of clinically important effect	Overall quality
Anger measures											
01 State-trait anger scale											
Psych 01.01	01 State-trait anger scale	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse data (-1)	13/13	SMD = -0.98 (-1.81, -0.16)	WMD = -7.93 (-13.93, -1.93)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 01.01	02 State-trait anger scale (12-month follow-up)	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse data (-1)	8/7	SMD = -0.91 (-1.99, 0.18)	WMD = -6.49 (-13.16, 0.18)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 01.01	03 State-trait anger scale (24-month follow-up)	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	100% self-harm	Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	8/11	SMD = -0.59 (-1.52, 0.35)	WMD = -5.2 (-12.66, 2.26)	Inconclusive	Very low
Anxiety measures											
Psych 06.01	01 HARS	Koons 2001 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	25% substance abuse	Sparse data (-1)	10/10	SMD = -1.22 (-2.2, -0.25)	WMD = -13.1 (-22.08, -4.12)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 06.01	02 STAI state anxiety	Bateman1999 MBT Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	Significant heterogeneity, random effects model used (-1)		Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	71/66	SMD (random effects) = 0.59 (-1.75, 0.57)	WMD (random effects) = 6.66 (-18.91, 5.59)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 06.01	03 STAI state anxiety (18-month follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	19/14	SMD = -3.49 (-4.63, -2.36)	WMD = -28.8 (-34.81, -22.79)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 06.01	04 STAI state anxiety (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	53/48	SMD = -0.18 (-0.57, 0.21)	WMD = -2.7 (-8.6, 3.2)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 06.01	05 HADS anxiety	Tyrer 2004 MACT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	31/33	SMD = 0.01 (-0.48, 0.5)	WMD = 0.06 (-2.29, 2.41)	Unlikely	Moderate
Psych 06.02	01 DBT: Beck Anxiety Inventory	Turner 2000 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Some axis I comorbidity and substance abuse	Sparse, skewed, inconclusive data (-2)	12/12	SMD = -4.66 (-9.81, 0.49)	WMD = -4.66 (-9.81, 0.49)	Inconclusive	Very low
Depression measures											

Psych	01 Depression outcomes combined (clinician-rated)	Koons 2001 DBT Linehan 2006 DBT Turner 2000 DBT Tyrer 2004 MACT	SIGN 1+	Some heterogeneity; random effects model used (-1)	Some self-harm, axis I comorbidity and substance abuse	Skewed data (-1)	103/94	SMD (random effects) = -0.45 (-0.92, 0.02)	WMD (random effects) = -3.51 (-6.29, -0.73)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych	01 BDI at endpoint	Bateman1999 MBT Blum2008 STEPPS Davidson2006 CBT Koons 2001 DBT Turner 2000 DBT	SIGN 1+	Significant heterogeneity; random effects model used (-1)	Some self-harm, axis I comorbidity and substance abuse	Skewed data (-1)	158/160	SMD (random effects) = 0.84 (-1.47, 0.21)	WMD (random effects) = -8.45 (-13.93, -2.97)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych	02 BDI (18-month follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse data (-1)	22/16	SMD = -1.15 (-1.85, -0.45)	WMD = -8.5 (-13.83, -3.17)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych	03 BDI (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse, skewed, inconclusive data (-2)	53/48	SMD = -0.15 (-0.54, 0.24)	WMD = -2.3 (-8.36, 3.76)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych	04 HADS depression	Tyrer 2004 MACT	SIGN 1++	N/A		Sparse, skewed, inconclusive data (-2)	31/33	SMD = 0.12 (-0.37, 0.61)	WMD = 0.69 (-2.12, 3.5)	Inconclusive	Very low
Impulsiveness measures											
Psych	01 Barratt Impulsiveness Scale	Blum2008 STEPPS	SIGN 1++	N/A		Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	65/59	SMD = -0.29 (-0.64, 0.07)	WMD = -4.1 (-9.09, 0.89)	Inconclusive	Very low
Mental distress measures											
Psych	01 GSI	Bateman1999 MBT Blum2008 STEPPS Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	None		Skewed data (-1)	136/125	SMD = -0.21 (-0.46, 0.03)	WMD = -0.21 (-0.65, 0.24)	Unlikely Very likely	High
Psych	02 GSI (18-month follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse/skewed data (-1)	21/15	SMD = -2.09 (-2.93, -1.25)	WMD = -1.2 (-1.56, -0.84)	(favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych	03 GSI (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse/skewed data (-1)	53/48	SMD = -0.12 (-0.51, 0.27)	WMD = -0.12 (-0.51, 0.27)	Unlikely	Moderate
Self-harm and suicide-related measures (including relevant service-use measures) (continuous)											

Psych 10.01	01 Self-harm (non-suicidal)	Linehan 2006 DBT Linehan'91 coht2 DBTvan den Bosch'02 DBT Koons 2001 DBT Turner 2000 DBT	SIGN 1+	No significant heterogeneity	Some self-harm, axis I comorbidity	Skewed data (-1)	92/93	SMD = -0.18 WMD = -0.17 (-0.47, 0.11) (-2.15, 1.82)	Unlikely	High
Psych 10.01	02 Self-harm and suicidal acts reported together	Weinberg 2006 MACT Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	No significant heterogeneity	and substance abuse	Skewed data (-1)	37/35	SMD = -0.81 WMD = -1.83 (-1.3, -0.32) (-3.07, -0.59)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 10.01	03 Suicidal acts (self-harm with suicidal intent)	van den Bosch'02 DBT	SIGN 1+	None		Skewed data (-1)	73/72	SMD = -0.45 WMD = -0.32 (-0.78, -0.12) (-0.55, -0.09)	Likely (favouring treatment)	High
Psych 10.01	04 Beck Suicidal Ideation Scale/OAS-suicidality	Koons 2001 DBT Turner 2000 DBT	SIGN 1+	None	Some axis I comorbidity and substance abuse	Skewed data (-1)	22/22	SMD = -1.04 WMD = -10.14 (-15.86, -4.43)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 10.01	05 Suicide attempts (5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse/skewed data (-1)	22/19	SMD = -0.63 WMD = -0.47 (-1.26, 0) (-0.9, -0.04)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 10.01	06 No A&E visits (presumed self-harm; 5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse/skewed data (-1)	22/19	SMD = -1.4 WMD = -5.63 (2.09, -0.7) (-8.23, -3.03)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 10.01	07 No of self-harm acts (6-month follow-up)	Weinberg 2006 MACT	SIGN 1+	N/A			15/15	SMD = -0.51 WMD = -4.71 (-1.24, 0.22) (-11.16, 1.74)	Inconclusive Likely	Very low
Psych 10.01	08 No of parasuicidal acts (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse/skewed data (-1)	53/48	SMD = -0.36 WMD = -0.86 (-0.75, 0.04) (-1.82, 0.1)	(favouring treatment)	Moderate
Self-harm and suicide-related measures (including relevant service-use measures) (dichotomous)										
Psych 10.02	01 Self-harm	Bateman1999 MBT van den Bosch'02 DBT	SIGN 1+	None		None	46/50	RR = 0.54 (0.34, 0.86)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	High
Psych 10.02	02 Self-harm (1-year follow-up)	Blum2008 STEPPS Bateman1999 MBT Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse data (-1)	61/47	RR = 1.03 (0.71, 1.48)	52% 51% Unlikely	Moderate
Psych 10.02	03 No of suicide attempts	Linehan 2006 DBT Linehan'91 coht2 DBTvan den Bosch'02 DBT	SIGN 1+	Significant heterogeneity, random effects model used (-1) PDs	Some comorbid	None	183/178	RR (random effects) = 0.52 (0.31, 0.89)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 10.02	04 Number of suicide attempts (1-year follow-up)	Blum2008 STEPPS	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	61/47	RR = 1.08 (0.53, 2.21)	21% 39% Inconclusive	Very low

Psych 10.02	05 No of suicide attempts (5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse data (-1)	22/19	RR = 0.31 (0.14, 0.7)	23% 74%	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 10.02	06 Hospital admission for self-harm	Carter unpub DBT	SIGN 1++	N/A	Self-harm	Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	38/35	RR = 0.82 (0.36, 1.89)	21% 26%	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 10.02	07 Number of suicide attempts (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	53/48	RR = 0.8 (0.54, 1.2)	43% 54%	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 10.02	08 No with >=1 episode of parasuicide	Tyrer 2004 MACT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse data (-1)	34/36	RR = 0.97 (0.88, 1.07)	94% 97%	Unlikely	Moderate
Psych 10.02	09 Parasuicide (attempted suicide + self-harm; total with >= 1 event) 24 months	Chanen unpub CAT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse/inconclusive data (-2)	41/37	RR = 0.98 (0.51, 1.87)	32% 32%	Inconclusive	Very low

Service use measures (continuous)

								SMD (random effects) =	WMD (random effects) =		
Psych 11.01	01 No days hospitalised	Carter unpub DBT Linehan1991 coht1&2 Turner 2000 DBT	SIGN 1+	Significant heterogeneity, random effects model used (-1)	Some self-harm, comorbid axis I disorders, substance abuse	Skewed/inconclusive data (-1)	69/67	0.56 (-1.12, 0.01)	5.42 (-14.01, 3.17)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 11.01	02 No days hospitalised (24-month follow-up)	Linehan1991 coht1&2	SIGN 1+	N/A	Self-harm	Skewed/spars e data (-1)	19/18	SMD = -2.38 (-3.24, -1.52)	WMD = -0.45 (-0.57, -0.33)	Unlikely	Moderate
Psych 11.01	03 No days hospitalised (self-harm only)	Carter unpub DBT	SIGN 1++	N/A	Self-harm	Skewed/spars e data (-1)	38/35	SMD = -0.27 (-0.73, 0.19)	WMD = -0.72 (-1.97, 0.53)	Unlikely	Moderate
Psych 11.01	04 No days hospitalised (Linehan cohort 2) 18-month data	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Self-harm	Sparse data (-1)	8/7	SMD = -0.8 (1.87, 0.26)	WMD = -0.29 (-0.65, 0.07)	Unlikely	Moderate
Psych 11.01	05 No days hospitalised (Linehan cohort 2) 24-month data	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Self-harm	Sparse data (-1)	8/7	SMD = -4.94 (-7.24, -2.65)	WMD = -2.22 (-2.64, -1.8)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 11.01	06 No days hospitalised (5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Skewed/spars e data (-1)	22/19	SMD = -1.51 (-2.22, -0.81)	WMD = -5.93 (-8.47, -3.39)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 11.01	07 No of admissions (any psychiatric)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Skewed/spars e data (-1)	91/83	SMD = -0.13 (-0.43, 0.16)	WMD = -0.36 (-1.19, 0.46)	Unlikely	Moderate
Psych 11.01	08 Admission for psychiatric reasons (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Skewed/spars e data (-1)	53/48	SMD = -0.2 (0.59, 0.19)	WMD = -0.67 (-1.98, 0.64)	Unlikely	Moderate
Psych 11.01	09 No of admissions (self-harm)	Carter unpub DBT	SIGN 1++	N/A	Self-harm	Skewed/spars e data (-1)	38/35	SMD = -0.16 (-0.62, 0.3)	WMD = -4.38 (-17.31, 8.55)	Inconclusive	Very low

Psych	10 No A&E visits (presumed self-harm; 5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Skewed/spars e data (-1)	22/19	SMD = -1.4 (-2.09, -0.7) WMD = -5.63 (-8.23, -3.03)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych	11 No years further psychiatric outpatient treatment (5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Skewed/spars e data (-1)	22/19	SMD = -0.91 (-1.56, -0.26) WMD = -1.6 (-2.64, -0.56)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych	12 No years on 3 or more drugs (5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Skewed/spars e data (-1)	22/19	SMD = -1.29 (-1.97, -0.61) WMD = -1.7 (-2.56, -0.84)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Service-use outcomes: emergency department use (continuous)										
Psych	11.02 01 No A&E contacts	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse, skewed and inconclusive data (-1)	53/48	SMD = -0.05 (-0.44, 0.34) WMD = -0.24 (-1.98, 1.5)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych	11.02 02 No A&E contacts (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse, skewed and inconclusive data (-1)	53/48	SMD = -0.01 (-0.4, 0.38) WMD = -0.15 (-4.26, 3.96)	Inconclusive Very likely (favouring treatment)	Very low
Psych	11.02 03 No A&E visits (presumed self-harm; 5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Skewed/spars e data (-1)	22/19	SMD = -1.4 (-2.09, -0.7) WMD = -5.63 (-8.23, -3.03)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Service-use measures (dichotomous)										
Psych	11.03 01 Emergency Department Visits for Psychiatric reasons	Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Comorbid axis I disorders	Sparse data (-1)	50/39	RR = 0.61 (0.42, 0.89)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych	11.03 02 Emergency Department Visits for Psychiatric reasons (24 months)	Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Comorbid axis I disorders	Sparse/inconclusive data (-1)	46/35	RR = 0.65 (0.35, 1.23)	26% 40% Inconclusive	Very low
Psych	11.03 03 Emergency Department Visits for suicide ideation (endpoint)	Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Comorbid axis I disorders	Sparse data (-1)	50/39	RR = 0.48 (0.22, 1.04)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych	11.03 04 Emergency Department Visits for suicide ideation (24 months)	Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Comorbid axis I disorders	Sparse/inconclusive data (-1)	46/35	RR = 0.63 (0.21, 1.91)	11% 17% Inconclusive	Very low
Psych	11.03 06 Emergency Department visits (1-year follow-up)	Blum2008 STEPPS	SIGN 1+	N/A	Self-harm	Sparse/inconclusive data (-1)	65/59	RR = 0.87 (0.53, 1.4)	32% 37% Inconclusive	Very low
Psych	11.03 07 Hospital admission for psychiatric reasons	Carter unpub DBT Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+		Significant heterogeneity; random effects model used (-1) Some self-harm and comorbid axis I disorders	Inconclusive data (-1)	88/74	RR (random effects) = 0.57 (0.26, 1.24)	19% 35% Inconclusive	Very low

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Psych 11.03	08 Hospital admission (reason not stated; 1-year follow-up)	Blum2008 STEPPS	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse/inconclusive data (-1) 65/59	RR = 0.86 (0.49, 1.5)	26% 31%	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 11.03	09 Hospital admission for psychiatric reasons (24-month follow-up)	Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Comorbid axis I disorders	Sparse/inconclusive data (-1) 46/35	RR = 1.05 (0.47, 2.32)	24% 23%	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 11.03	10 Hospital admission for suicidal ideation	Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Comorbid axis I disorders	Sparse data (-1) 50/39	RR = 0.28 (0.11, 0.71)	10% 36%	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 11.03	11 Hospital admission for suicidal ideation (24-month follow-up)	Linehan 2006 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Comorbid axis I disorders	Sparse/inconclusive data (-1) 46/35	RR = 0.89 (0.33, 2.41)	15% 17%	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 11.03	12 Hospital admission for self-harm	Carter unpub DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Self-harm	Sparse/inconclusive data (-1) 38/35	RR = 0.82 (0.36, 1.89)	21% 26%	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 11.03	13 No on medication at endpoint	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse data (-1) 19/19	RR = 0.47 (0.25, 0.88)	37% 79%	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
BPD symptoms										
Psych 12.01	01 No of BPD criteria (DSM)	Koons 2001 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	25% substance abuse	Skewed/sparse/inconclusive data (-2) 10/10	SMD = -0.29 WMD = -0.6 (-1.17, 0.59) 2.34, 1.14)		Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 12.01	02 ZAN-BPD	Blum2008 STEPPS	SIGN 1+	N/A		Skewed/sparse/inconclusive data (-1) 65/59	SMD = -0.45 WMD = -3.6 (-0.81, -0.1) 6.37, -0.83)		Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 12.01	03 ZAN-BPD total (5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Skewed/sparse/inconclusive data (-1) 22/19	SMD = -1.79 WMD = -9.6 (-2.53, -1.06) 12.83, -6.38)		Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 12.01	04 SCID-II BPD total 6 months	Chanen unpub CAT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse/inconclusive data (-2) 41/37	SMD = -0.1 WMD = -0.37 (0.55, 0.34) (-1.95, 1.21)		Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 12.01	05 SCID-II BPD total 12 months	Chanen unpub CAT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse/inconclusive data (-2) 41/37	SMD = -0.15 WMD = -0.59 (-0.59, 0.3) (-2.34, 1.16)		Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 12.01	06 SCID-II BPD total 24 months	Chanen unpub CAT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse/inconclusive data (-2) 41/37	SMD = -0.06 WMD = -0.27 (-0.5, 0.39) (-2.39, 1.85)		Inconclusive	Very low
Social functioning measures										
Psych 13.01	01 Social Adjustment Scale - work performance (18 months)	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Self-harm	Sparse/inconclusive data (-1) 7/7	SMD = -0.57 WMD = -0.33 (-1.64, 0.51) (-0.9, 0.24)		Inconclusive	Very low

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Psych 13.01	02 Social Adjustment Scale - anxious remunation (18 months)	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Self-harm	Sparse/inconclusive data (-1) 6/7	SMD = -0.79 WMD = -0.71 (-1.94, 0.36) (-1.56, 0.14)	Inconclusive Likely (favouring treatment)	Very low
Psych 13.01	03 Social Adjustment Scale - employment performance (18 months)	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Self-harm	Sparse data (-1) 5/5	SMD = -1.48 WMD = -0.8 (-2.98, 0.01) 1.4, -0.2)	(favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 13.01	04 Social Adjustment Scale - work performance (24 months)	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Self-harm	Sparse/inconclusive data (-1) 7/7	SMD = -0.58 WMD = -0.44 (-1.66, 0.5) (-1.18, 0.3)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 13.01	05 Social Adjustment Scale - anxious remunation (24 months)	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Self-harm	Sparse/inconclusive data (-1) 6/7	SMD = -0.45 WMD = -0.44 (-1.56, 0.66) (-1.42, 0.54)	Inconclusive Likely (favouring treatment)	Very low
Psych 13.01	06 Social Adjustment Scale - employment performance (24 months)	Linehan'91 coht2 DBT	SIGN 1+	N/A	Self-harm	Sparse data (-1) 4/4	SMD = -1.81 WMD = -1.04 (-3.67, 0.05) (-1.73, -0.35)	(favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 13.01	08 SFQ	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse data (-1) 52/47	SMD = 0 (-0.39, 0.39) WMD = 0 (-1.78, 1.78)	Unlikely	Moderate
Psych 13.01	09 SFQ (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse/inconclusive data (-1) 53/48	SMD = 0.14 WMD = 0.7 (-0.26, 0.53) 1.32, 2.72)	Inconclusive	Very low
General functioning measures									
Psych 14.01	01 GAS	Blum2008 STEPPS	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse data (-1) 64/59	SMD = -0.55 WMD = -7 (-0.91, -0.19) 11.45, -2.55)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 14.01	02 GAF	Tyrer 2004 MACT	SIGN 1++	N/A		Sparse/inconclusive data (-1) 31/33	SMD = -0.17 WMD = -2.76 (-0.67, 0.32) (-10.46, 4.94)	Inconclusive Likely (favouring treatment)	Very low
Psych 14.01	03 GAF (5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Sparse data (-1) 22/19	SMD = -0.74 WMD = -6.5 (-1.38, -0.1) 11.58, -1.42)	(favouring treatment)	Moderate
Employment-related outcomes									
Psych 15.01	01 No years employment (5-year follow-up)	Bateman1999 MBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Skewed/parsede data (-1) 22/19	SMD = -0.92 WMD = -2 (-1.57, -0.27) 3.29, -0.71)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Quality of life measures									
Psych 16.01	01 EuroQOL	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Skewed/sparsede data (-1) 52/47	SMD = 0.29 WMD = 0.11 (-0.11, 0.68) 0.04, 0.26)	Inconclusive	Very low
Psych 16.01	02 EuroQOL (24-month follow-up)	Davidson2006 CBT	SIGN 1+	N/A		Skewed/sparsede data (-1) 53/48	SMD = -0.23 WMD = -0.08 (-0.62, 0.16) (-0.21, 0.05)	Inconclusive	Very low

Psych 16.01	03 WHO QOL total score (schema-focused CT vs transference focused psychotherapy)	Giesen-Bloo2006 SCHE	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse data (-1)	44/42	SMD = 0 (-0.42, 0.42)	WMD = 0 (-0.1, 0.1)	Unlikely	Moderate
Psych 16.01	04 WHO QOL total score (24-month follow-up) (schema-focused CT vs transference focused psychotherapy)	Giesen-Bloo2006 SCHE	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse data (-1)	44/42	SMD = -0.6 (-1.03, -0.16)	WMD = -0.19 (-0.32, -0.06)	Likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Psych 16.01	05 WHO QOL total score (32-month follow-up) (schema-focused CT vs transference focused psychotherapy)	Giesen-Bloo2006 SCHE	SIGN 1+	N/A	Sparse data (-1)	44/42	SMD = -2.01 (-2.53, -1.49)	WMD = -0.5 (-0.6, -0.4)	Very likely (favouring treatment)	Moderate
Acceptability of treatment										
Psych 17.01	01 Leaving treatment early for DBT	Bateman1999 MBT Blum2008 STEPPS Chanen unpub CAT Davidson2006 CBT Linehan 2006 DBT Linehan1991 DBT Turner 2000 DBT van den Bosch'02	SIGN 1+	Significant heterogeneity; random effects model used (-1)	Inconclusive data (-1)	338/313	RR (random effects) = 0.86 (0.57, 1.3)	32% 33%	Inconclusive	Very low

Forest plot	Description	Study Ids	Quality	Consistency	Directness	Other factors	N treatment group/N control	Effect size (SMD)	Absolute statistic (WMD)	Likelihood of clinically important effect	Overall quality
03 Aggression measures											
<i>01 Clinician-rated measures</i>											
Combo 01.01	01 Fluoxetine + DBT vs placebo + DBT: OAS-M - aggression subscale (12 weeks)	Simpson 2004 Flx+DBT	Sign 1+	N/A	Partial hospitalisation;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); part Comboa-sponsored	9/11	SMD = -0.59 (-1.5, 0.31)	WMD = -4.89 (-11.33, 1.55)	Inconclusive	Very low
04 Anger measures											
<i>01 STAXI - state anger subscale (8 weeks)</i>											
Combo 02.01	01 Fluoxetine + DBT vs placebo + DBT	Simpson 2004 Flx+DBT	Sign 1+	N/A	Partial hospitalisation;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); part Comboa-sponsored	9/11	SMD = -0.55 (-1.45, 0.35)	WMD = -7.08 (-17.89, 3.73)	Inconclusive	Very low
05 Anxiety measures											
<i>01 Clinician-rated measures (endpoint)</i>											
Combo 03.01	02 Fluoxetine + IPT vs fluoxetine: HARS (24 weeks)	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	16/16	SMD = 0.2 (-0.49, 0.9)	WMD = 0.8 (-1.84, 3.44)	Inconclusive	Very low
Combo 03.01	02 Fluoxetine + IPT vs fluoxetine + CT: HARS (24 weeks)	Bellino2007 Flx+IPT	Sign 1++	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	14/12	SMD = 0.27 (-0.5, 1.05)	WMD = 1 (-1.59, 3.59)	Inconclusive	Very low
Combo 03.01	03 Olanzapine + DBT vs placebo + DBT: HARS (12 weeks)	Soler2005 Olz+DBT	Sign 1+	N/A	Setting unclear;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); part Comboa-sponsored	30/30	SMD = -0.23 (-0.74, 0.28)	WMD = -1.5 (-4.75, 1.75)	Inconclusive	Very low
Combo 03.01	04 Fluoxetine + DBT vs placebo + DBT: STAI (12 weeks)	Simpson 2004 Flx+DBT	Sign 1+	N/A	Partial hospitalisation;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); part Comboa-sponsored	9/11	SMD = 0.15 (-0.73, 1.03)	WMD = 5.15 (-24.99, 35.29)	Inconclusive	Very low
06 Depression measures: clinician-rated											

08 Clinician-rated measures (endpoint): combination treatments

Combo 04.08	01 Fluoxetine + IPT vs fluoxetine: HRSD (24 weeks)	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	16/16	SMD = -0.9 (-1.63, -0.16)	WMD = -2.9 (-5.09, -0.71)	Likely (favouring fluoxetine + IPT)	Moderate
Combo 04.02	02 Fluoxetine + IPT vs fluoxetine + CT: HRSD (24 weeks)	Bellino2007 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	14/12	SMD = 0.07 (-0.7, 0.84)	WMD = 0.86 (0, 0)	Inconclusive	Very low
Combo 04.08	02 Olanzapine + DBT vs placebo + DBT: HARS (12 weeks)	Soler2005 Olz+DBT	Sign 1+	N/A	Setting unclear;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); part Comboa-sponsored	30/30	SMD = -0.35 (-0.86, 0.16)	WMD = -2.09 (-5.1, 0.92)	Inconclusive	Very low

07 Depression measures: self-rated

08 Self-rated measures (endpoint): combination treatments

Combo 04.09	01 Fluoxetine + DPT vs placebo + DBT: BDI (12 weeks)	Simpson 2004 Flx+DBT	Sign 1+	N/A	Partial hospitalisation; 100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); part Comboa-sponsored	9/11	SMD = 0.76 (0.16, 1.68)	WMD = 11.09 (-1.97, 24.15)	Likely (favouring control)	Low
Combo 04.01	02 Fluoxetine + IPT vs fluoxetine + CT: HARS (24 weeks)	Bellino2007 Flx+IPT	Sign 1++	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	14/12	SMD = 0.27 (0.5, 1.05)	WMD = 1 (-1.59, 3.59)	Inconclusive	Very low

08 Global functioning measures

Combo 05.01	01 Fluoxetine + DBT vs placebo + DBT: GAF (12 weeks)	Simpson 2004 Flx+DBT	Sign 1+	N/A	Partial hospitalisation; 100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); part Comboa-sponsored	9/11	SMD = 0.06 (0.82, 0.94)	WMD = 0.62 (-8.96, 10.2)	Inconclusive	Very low
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13 Self-harm/suicidality

Combo 7.02	01 Overt aggression scale - suicidality subscale (12 weeks)	Simpson 2004 Flx+DBT	Sign 1+	N/A	Partial hospitalisation; 100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); part Comboa-sponsored	9/11	SMD = 0.44 (0.46, 1.33)	WMD = 1.13 (-1.25, 3.51)	Inconclusive	Very low
Combo 7.02	02 Self-harm/suicide attempts (12 weeks)	Soler2005 Olz+DBT	Sign 1+	N/A	Setting unclear;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); part Comboa-sponsored	30/30	SMD = 0.15 (0.36, 0.65)	WMD = 0.35 (-0.84, 1.54)	Inconclusive	Very low

Combo 7.02	03 Overt aggression scale - self-injury subscale (12 weeks)	Simpson 2004 Flx+DBT	Sign 1+	N/A	Partial hospitalisation;100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); part Comboa-sponsored	9/11	SMD = 0.03 (-0.85, 0.92)	WMD = 0.45 (-10.55, 11.45)	Inconclusive	Very low
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15 Severe psychopathology (BPRS)

02 Fluoxetine vs fluoxetine + IPT (24 weeks)

Combo 15.02	01 IIP - domineering/controlling	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	16/16	SMD = -0.29 (-0.99, 0.41)	WMD = -4 (-13.35, 5.35)	Inconclusive	Very low
Combo 15.02	02 IIP - cold or distant	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	16/16	SMD = 1.58 (0.78, 2.39)	WMD = 11.3 (6.48, 16.12)	Inconclusive	Very low
Combo 15.02	03 IIP - vindictive/self-centred	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	16/16	SMD = 0.67 (-0.04, 1.39)	WMD = 7.4 (-0.01, 14.81)	Likely (favouring combination treatment)	Moderate
Combo 15.02	04 IIP - socially inhibited	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	16/16	SMD = 0.87 (0.14, 1.6)	WMD = 9.7 (2.13, 17.27)	Likely (favouring combination treatment)	Moderate
Combo 15.02	05 IIP - non-assertive	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	16/16	SMD = -0.26 (-0.95, 0.44)	WMD = -2.8 (-10.18, 4.58)	Inconclusive	Very low
Combo 15.02	06 IIP - overly accommodating	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	16/16	SMD = 0.08 (-0.61, 0.78)	WMD = 1 (-7.13, 9.13)	Inconclusive	Very low
Combo 15.02	07 IIP - self-sacrificing	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	16/16	SMD = 0.3 (-0.4, 1)	WMD = 3.7 (-4.62, 12.02)	Inconclusive	Very low
Combo 15.02	08 IIP - intrusive or needy	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1); no funding	16/16	SMD = 0.83 (0.1, 1.55)	WMD = 8.3 (1.51, 15.09)	Likely (favouring combination treatment)	Very low

12 Quality of life measures

Combo 06.01	01 SAT-P physical (24 weeks)	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT Bellino2007 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	Some heterogeneity: random effects model used (-1)	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Imprecise data (-1); no funding	30/28	SMD (random effects) = -0.09 (-0.74, 0.57)	WMD (random effects) = -1.46 (-10.16, 7.24)	Inconclusive	Very low
Combo 06.01	02 SAT-P psychological (24 weeks)	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT Bellino2007 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	None	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	no funding	30/28	SMD = -0.69 (-1.23, -0.16)	WMD = -10.14 (-17.3, -2.98)	Likely (favouring fluox + IPT)	Moderate
Combo 06.01	03 SAT-P sleep, food, free time (24 weeks)	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT Bellino2007 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	None	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Imprecise data (-1); no funding	30/28	SMD = 0.23 (-0.29, 0.75)	WMD = 2.78 (-5.03, 10.58)	Inconclusive	Very low
Combo 06.01	04 SAT-P social functioning (24 weeks)	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT Bellino2007 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity: random effects model used (-1)	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Imprecise data (-1); no funding	30/28	SMD (random effects) = -0.17 (-2.58, 2.23)	WMD (random effects) = -1.1 (-32.26, 30.06)	Inconclusive	Very low
Combo 06.01	05 SAT-P work (24 weeks)	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT Bellino2007 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	Significant heterogeneity: random effects model used (-1)	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Imprecise data (-1); no funding	30/28	SMD (random effects) = 0.32 (-0.48, 1.11)	WMD (random effects) = 6.82 (-6.97, 20.61)	Inconclusive	Very low
0 18 Number of participants leaving treatment early for any reason											
Combo 09.01	01 Fluoxetine + DBT vs placebo + DBT	Simpson 2004 Flx+DBT	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Imprecise data (-1); no funding	12/13	RD = 0.1 (-0.22, 0.41)	25% vs 15%	Inconclusive	Very low
Combo 09.01	02 Fluoxetine + IPT vs fluoxetine + CT	Bellino2007 Flx+IPT	Sign 1++	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Imprecise data (-1); no funding	16/16	RD = -0.13 (-0.39, 0.14)	13% vs 25%	Inconclusive	Very low
Combo 09.01	03 Fluoxetine + IPT vs fluoxetine	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT	Sign 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Imprecise data (-1); no funding	20/19	RD = 0.04 (-0.2, 0.28)	20% vs 16%	Inconclusive	Very low
18 Number of participants reporting side effects											
02 Antidepressants (non-placebo comparisons)											
Combo 10.01	01 Fluoxetine + DBT vs placebo + DBT	Simpson 2004 Flx+DBT	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Partial hospitalisation; 100% axis I disorders	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	12/13	RD = 0 (-0.14, 0.14)	0% ##	Inconclusive	Very low
Combo 10.01	04 Fluoxetine + IPT vs fluoxetine	Bellino2004 Flx+IPT	SIGN: 1+	N/A	Outpatients; 100% MDD;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	19/20	RD = 0 (-0.09, 0.09)	0% ##	Inconclusive	Very low

04 Antipsychotics (non-placebo comparisons)

Combo 10.02	03 Olanzapine + DBT vs placebo + DBT	Soler2005 Olz+DBT	SIGN: 1+ N/A	Setting unclear;	Sparse/ imprecise data (-1)	30/30	RD = 0 (-0.06, 0.06)	0% ## Inconclusive	Very low
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0 22 Side effects: weight or weight change (kg)

Combo 10.02	02 Olanzapine + DBT vs placebo + DBT	Soler2005 Olz+DBT	Sign 1+ N/A	Symptomatic volunteers; mild depression at baseline	Sparse/ imprecise/skewed data (-1); research body funded	30/30	WMD = 2.79 (1.36, 4.22)	Likely (favouring placebo + DBT)	Low
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