

## Author's Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0165-0327(17)30794-2  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2017.09.054>  
Reference: JAD9262

To appear in: *Journal of Affective Disorders*

Received date: 21 April 2017  
Revised date: 16 August 2017  
Accepted date: 27 September 2017

Cite this article as: J Craig Nelson, Emmanuelle Weiller, Peter Zhang, Catherine Weiss and Mary Hobart, Efficacy of adjunctive brexpiprazole on the core symptoms of major depressive disorder: a *post hoc* analysis of two pooled clinical studies, *Journal of Affective Disorders*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2017.09.054>

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# Efficacy of adjunctive brexpiprazole on the core symptoms of major depressive disorder: a *post hoc* analysis of two pooled clinical studies

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## Abstract

### Background

Patients with major depressive disorder (MDD) who do not adequately respond to antidepressant treatment (ADT) may benefit from adjunctive atypical antipsychotics; however, certain agents target specific symptoms of depression and not the full syndrome. The aim of this analysis was to examine the effects of brexpiprazole, adjunct to ADT, on the core symptoms of MDD, defined using Montgomery-Åsberg Depression Rating Scale (MADRS) items.

### Methods

This was a *post hoc* analysis of data from two 6-week, randomized, double-blind studies of adjunctive brexpiprazole in patients with MDD and inadequate response to ADTs (n=1,056). Efficacy was assessed using the MADRS core symptom subscale (MADRS<sub>6</sub>) and individual items (apparent sadness, reported sadness, inner tension, lassitude, inability to feel, and pessimistic thoughts).

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