
Acute and Maintenance Treatment of Bipolar Depression

Terence A. Ketter, M.D.

Overview

- **Treatment options**
 - **Atypical antipsychotics**
 - **Mood stabilizers**
 - **Adjunctive antidepressants**
 - **Adjunctive psychotherapy**
 - **Alternative treatments**
- **Treatment of acute bipolar depression**
- **Prevention of bipolar depression**

Teaching Points

Some atypical antipsychotics provide benefit in acute bipolar depression, with strongest evidence supporting lurasidone (monotherapy or adjunctive to lithium or valproate), quetiapine monotherapy, and olanzapine combined with fluoxetine.

Mood stabilizers are foundational bipolar disorder treatment agents, historically considered first line for acute bipolar depression, with strongest evidence supporting lithium and lamotrigine.

Utility of adjunctive antidepressants in bipolar depression remains controversial, as these can yield inefficacy or switching into hypo/mania in some patients.

Pre-Lecture Exam

Question 1

1. The most pervasive symptoms in bipolar disorder are those of: (choose one)

A. Mania, hypomania

B. Hypomania

C. Depression

D. Mixed States

E. None of the above

Question 2

Which of the treatments below is the LEAST appropriate strategy in bipolar depression: (choose one)

- A. Mood stabilizer without antidepressant**
- B. Mood stabilizer with antidepressant**
- C. Atypical antipsychotic with antidepressant**
- D. Antidepressant with neither mood stabilizer nor atypical antipsychotic**

Question 3

Which antidepressant option carries the greatest risk of hypomania/mania: (choose one)

- A. Tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs)**
- B. Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)**
- C. Mirtazapine**
- D. Bupropion**

Question 4

Which of the following treatments do NOT have controlled data suggesting utility in bipolar depression: (choose one)

- A. Lithium**
- B. Lamotrigine**
- C. Olanzapine plus fluoxetine combination**
- D. Quetiapine**
- E. Citalopram**
- F. Lurasidone**

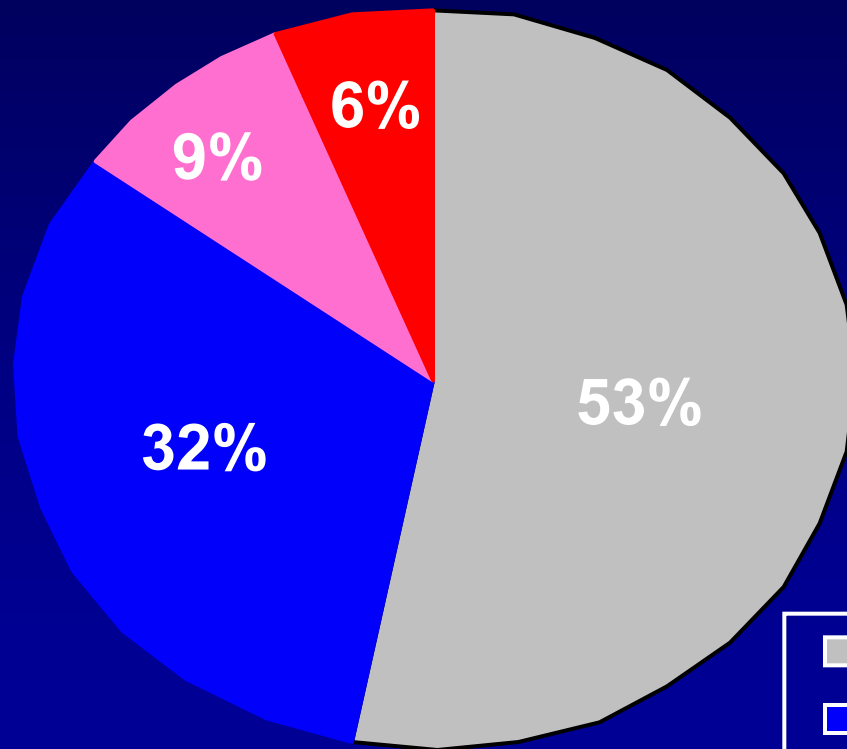
Question 5

Which of the following statements best describes the role of maintenance adjunctive antidepressants in patients with bipolar disorder: (choose one)

- A. Long-term adjunctive antidepressants are always beneficial.**
- B. Long-term adjunctive antidepressants are never beneficial.**
- C. Long-term adjunctive antidepressants are beneficial in most patients.**
- D. Long-term adjunctive antidepressants may be beneficial in some patients.**

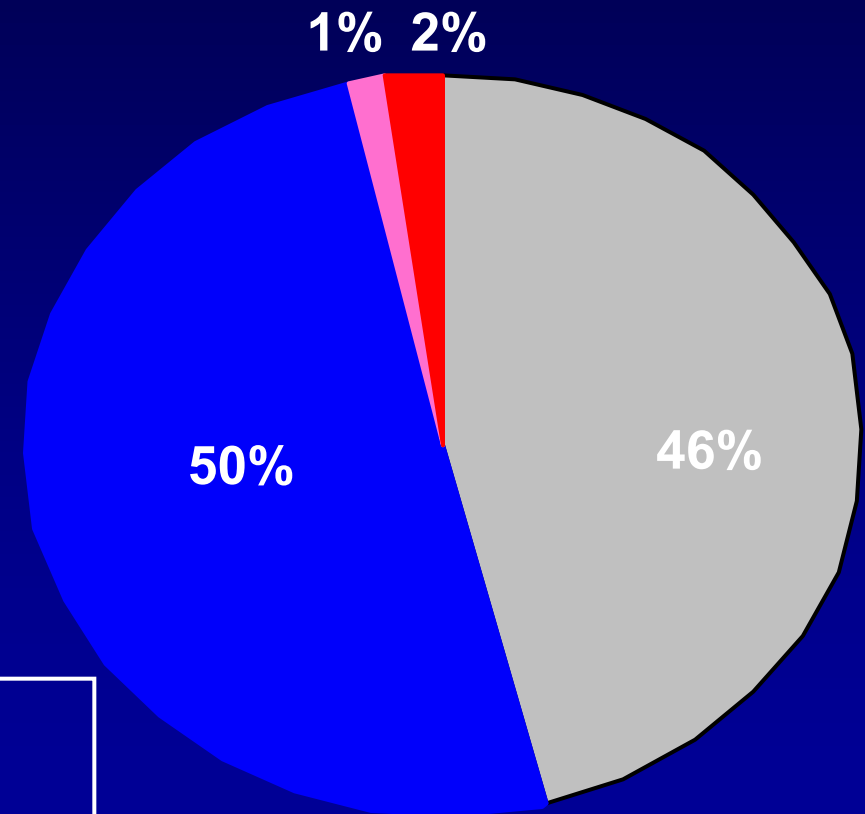
Bipolar disorders symptoms are chronic and predominantly depressive

146 Bipolar I Patients
followed 12.8 yrs



Judd et al 2002

86 Bipolar II Patients
followed 13.4 yrs



Judd et al 2003

% of Weeks

- Asymptomatic
- Depressed
- Hypomanic
- Cycling / mixed

Treatment Options in Bipolar Depression

Atypical Antipsychotics

Lurasidone

Quetiapine

Olanzapine

Mood Stabilizers

Lithium

Lamotrigine

Carbamazepine

Divalproex

ECT

Adjunctive

Antidepressants

Fluoxetine + Olanzapine

Bupropion / SSRIs

Mirtazapine

SNRIs

MAOIs

TCAs

Adjunctive Psychotherapy

Alternative Treatments

Armodafinil, modafinil

Pramipexole

Gabapentin

Omega-3 fatty acids

Phototherapy

Sleep deprivation

Thyroid hormones

Jefferson JW, Greist JH. Textbook of Psychiatry, Washington, DC, American Psychiatric Press, 1994; Post RM, et al. *Neuropsychopharmacology* 1998; Worthington JJ III, Pollack MH. *Am J Psychiatry* 1996; Amsterdam J. *J Clin Psychopharmacol* 1998; Barbini B, et al. *Psychiatry Res* 1998; Wirz-Justice A, et al. *Biol Psychiatry* 1999; Stoll AL, et al. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 1999; Bowden CL. *J Clin Psychiatry* 1998; Tohen M, et al. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 2003;60:1079-88; Calabrese JR, et al. *J Clin Psychiatry* 1999;60:79-88; Goldberg JF, et al. *Am J Psychiatry* 2004;161:564-6; Frye M, et al. *Am J Psychiatry* 2007;164:1242-9

FDA-Approved Agents for Bipolar Disorder

Acute Mania

Acute Depression

Longer-Term

Year Drug

Year Drug

Year Drug

1970 Lithium
1973 Chlorpromazine
1994 Divalproex, ER (2005)
2000 Olanzapine*
2003 Risperidone*
2004 Quetiapine, XR (2008)*
2004 Ziprasidone
2004 Aripiprazole*
2004 Carbamazepine ERC
2009 Asenapine*

2003 Olanzapine+fluoxetine
combination
2006 Quetiapine, XR (2008)
2013 Lurasidone*

**Unmet
Need**

1974 Lithium
2003 Lamotrigine
2004 Olanzapine
2005 Aripiprazole*
2008 Quetiapine, XR (adjunct)
2009 Risperidone LAI*
2009 Ziprasidone (adjunct)

**Unmet
Need**

*Adjunctive and monotherapy; LAI = Long-Acting Injectable

Important unmet needs - well-tolerated treatments for acute depression and maintenance.

Psychotropic Medication Side Effect Schematic

“Tolerability-
first” approach

Side effect risk over placebo
(NNH)

Medication
class

*More side effects
(Go here if necessary)*

**High (> 10%)
(NNH < 10)**

Second-
Generation
Anti-
psychotics



**Medium (5-10%)
(NNH = 10-20)**

ZIP, ARI, ASN, LUR

Li, VPA, CBZ

Mood
Stabilizers

**Low (< 5%)
(NNH > 20)**

LTG

Anti-
depressants

*Fewer side effects
(Start here if appropriate)*

FLX, SERT, PAR, (ES)CIT,
(DES)VEN, DLX, BUP, MIRT

FDA-Approved Agents for Bipolar Disorder

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Acute Depression

Longer-Term

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1974 Lithium
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**Unmet
Need**

**Unmet
Need**

*Adjunctive and monotherapy; LAI = Long-Acting Injectable

Important unmet needs - well-tolerated treatments for acute depression and maintenance.

Formulations of Agents for Bipolar Disorder

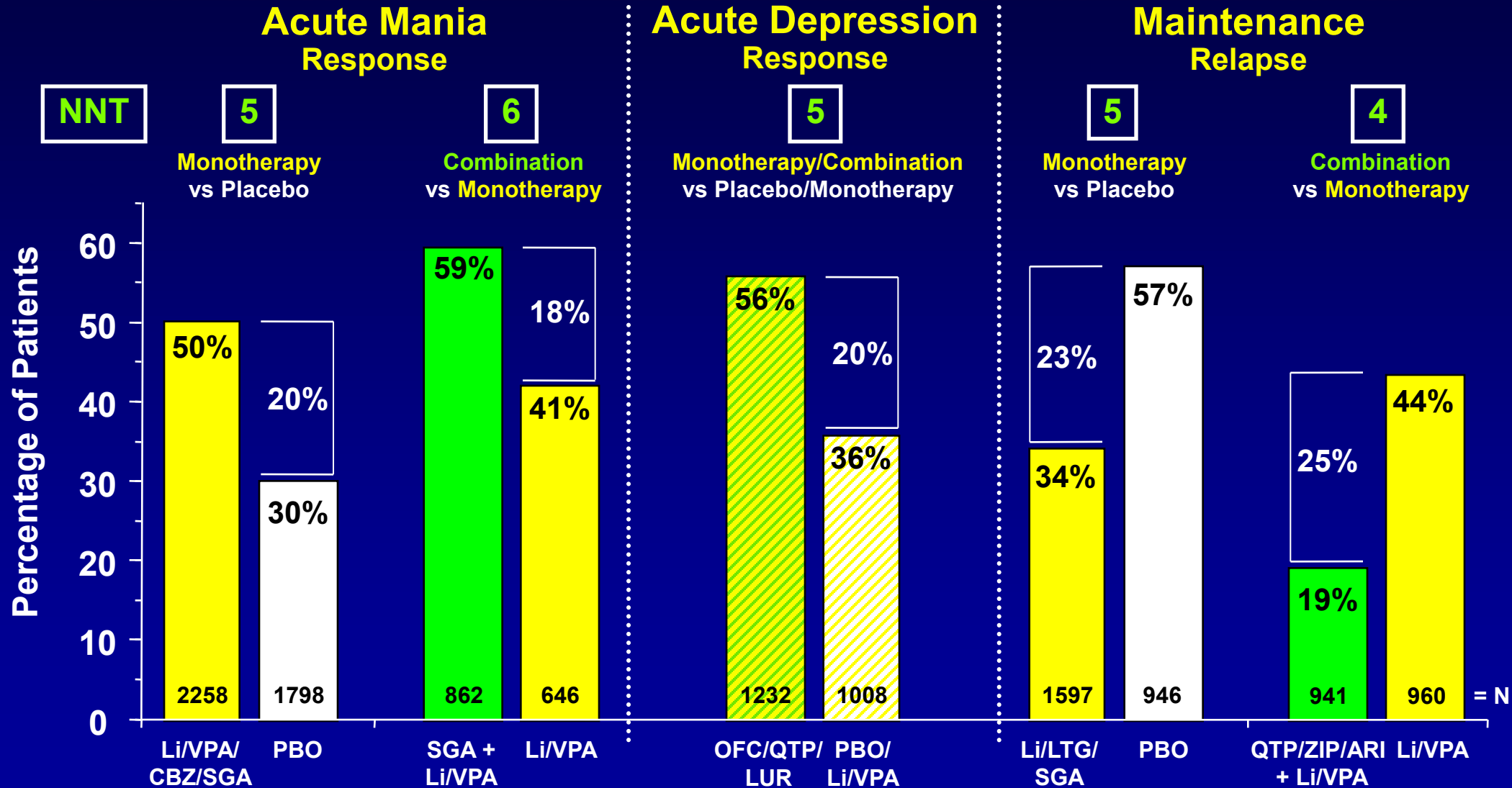
(Not all formulations have bipolar indications)

Medication	Oral Tab/Cap	Oral Fluid	Rapid Acting Injectable	Long Acting Injectable
Asenapine	SL			
Aripiprazole	+, ODT	+	IM	IM
Carbamazepine	+, ER	+		
Chlorpromazine	+	+	IM, IV	
Divalproex	+, ER	+	IV	
Lamotrigine	+, ER, ODT			
Lithium	+, ER	+		
Lurasidone	+			
Olanzapine	+, ODT		IM	IM
Olanzapine+fluoxetine	+			
Quetiapine	+, ER			
Risperidone	+, ODT	+		IM
Ziprasidone	+		IM	

ER = Extended Release; ODT = Orally Disintegrating Tab; IM = Intramuscular; IV = Intravenous; SL = Sublingual.
 Ketter TA (ed). Handbook of Diagnosis and Treatment of Bipolar Disorder, Am Psych Pub, Inc., Washington, DC, 2010.

Overview of Bipolar Disorder Registration Studies

Numbers Needed to Treat for Response and Relapse Prevention, Rates



In aggregate, FDA-approved bipolar disorder treatments increase good outcomes by 18%-25%.

Acute Treatment of Bipolar Depression

FDA-Approved Agents for Bipolar Disorder

Acute Mania

Acute Depression

Longer-Term

Year Drug

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Year Drug

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1974 Lithium

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2008 Quetiapine, XR (adjunct)

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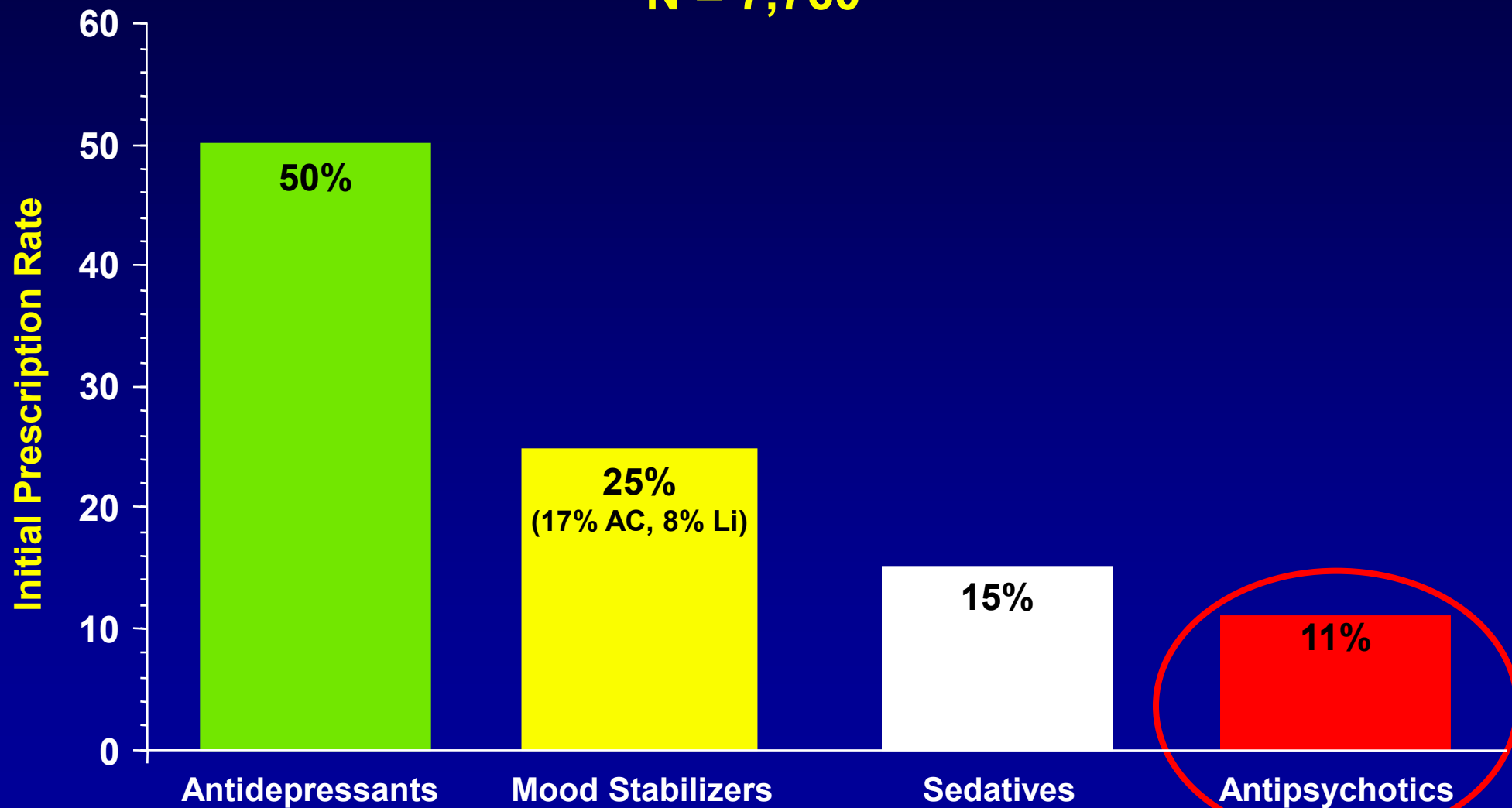


*Adjunctive and monotherapy; LAI = Long-Acting Injectable

All FDA-approved acute bipolar depression treatments involve Second Generation

Antipsychotics Fourth Most Common Initial Treatment for Bipolar Disorder Patients in United States in 2002-2003

N = 7,760



FDA Class Warnings/Precautions for Second Generation Antipsychotics

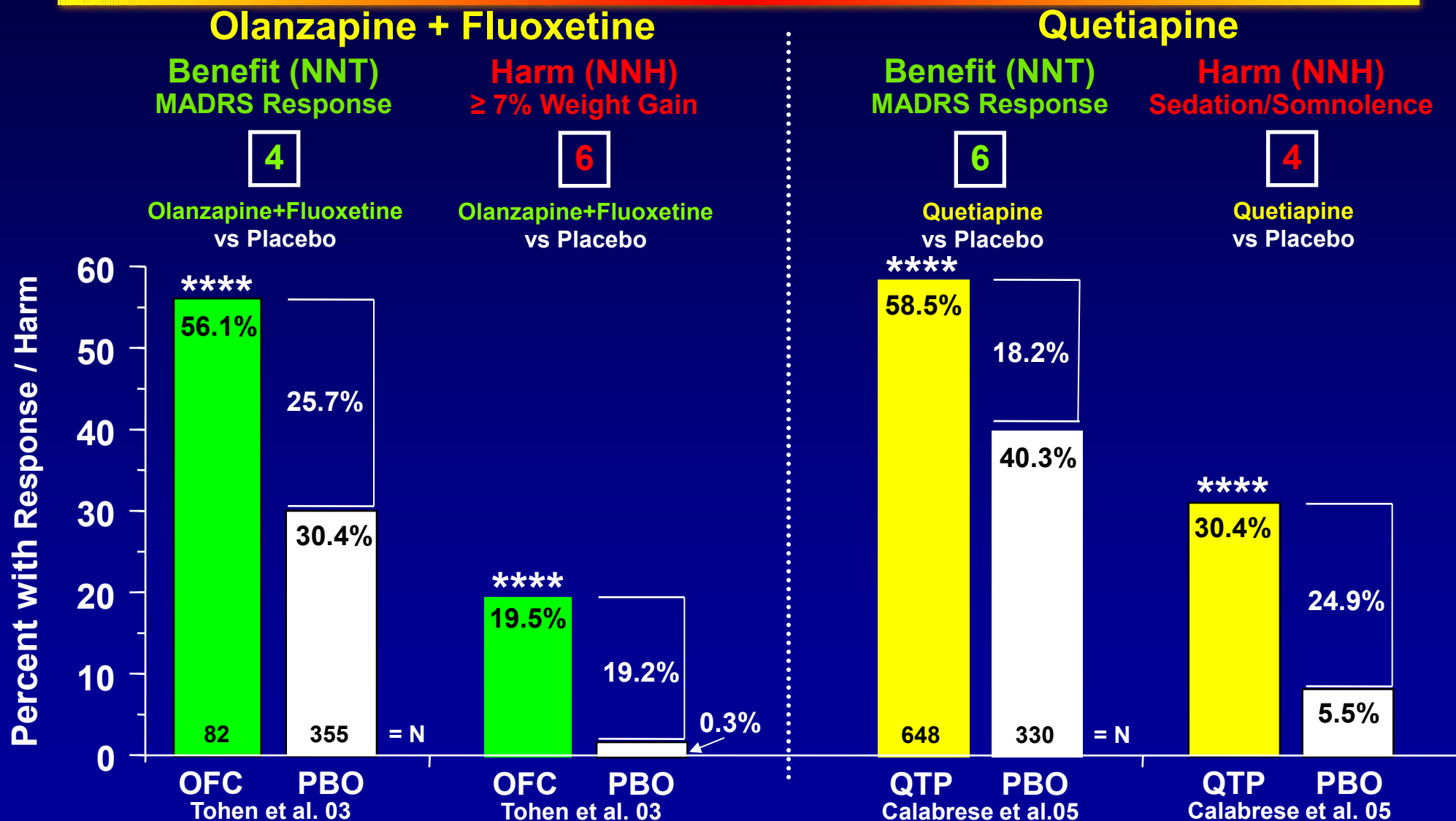
- 1. Increased Mortality in Elderly with Dementia-Related Psychosis (boxed)**
- 2. Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome**
- 3. Tardive Dyskinesia**
- 4. Hyperglycemia and Diabetes Mellitus**
- 5. Orthostatic Hypotension $\pm$ Syncope**
- 6. Leukopenia, Neutropenia, and Agranulocytosis**
- 7. Seizures**
- 8. Potential for Cognitive and Motor Impairment**
- 9. Body Temperature Regulation (pyrexia, feeling hot)**
- 10. Suicide (illness related)**
- 11. Dysphagia**
- 12. Use in Patients with Concomitant Medical Illness**

Additional FDA Warnings/Precautions for Most Second Generation Antipsychotics (with exceptions)

- 1. Weight Gain (ziprasidone excepted)**
- 2. Hyperprolactinemia (aripiprazole excepted)**
- 3. Hyperlipidemia/Dyslipidemia (ziprasidone, asenapine excepted)**
- 4. Cerebrovascular Accidents in Elderly with Dementia-Related Psychosis (quetiapine, ziprasidone excepted)**

Older Approved Bipolar Depression Rx Benefits & Harms

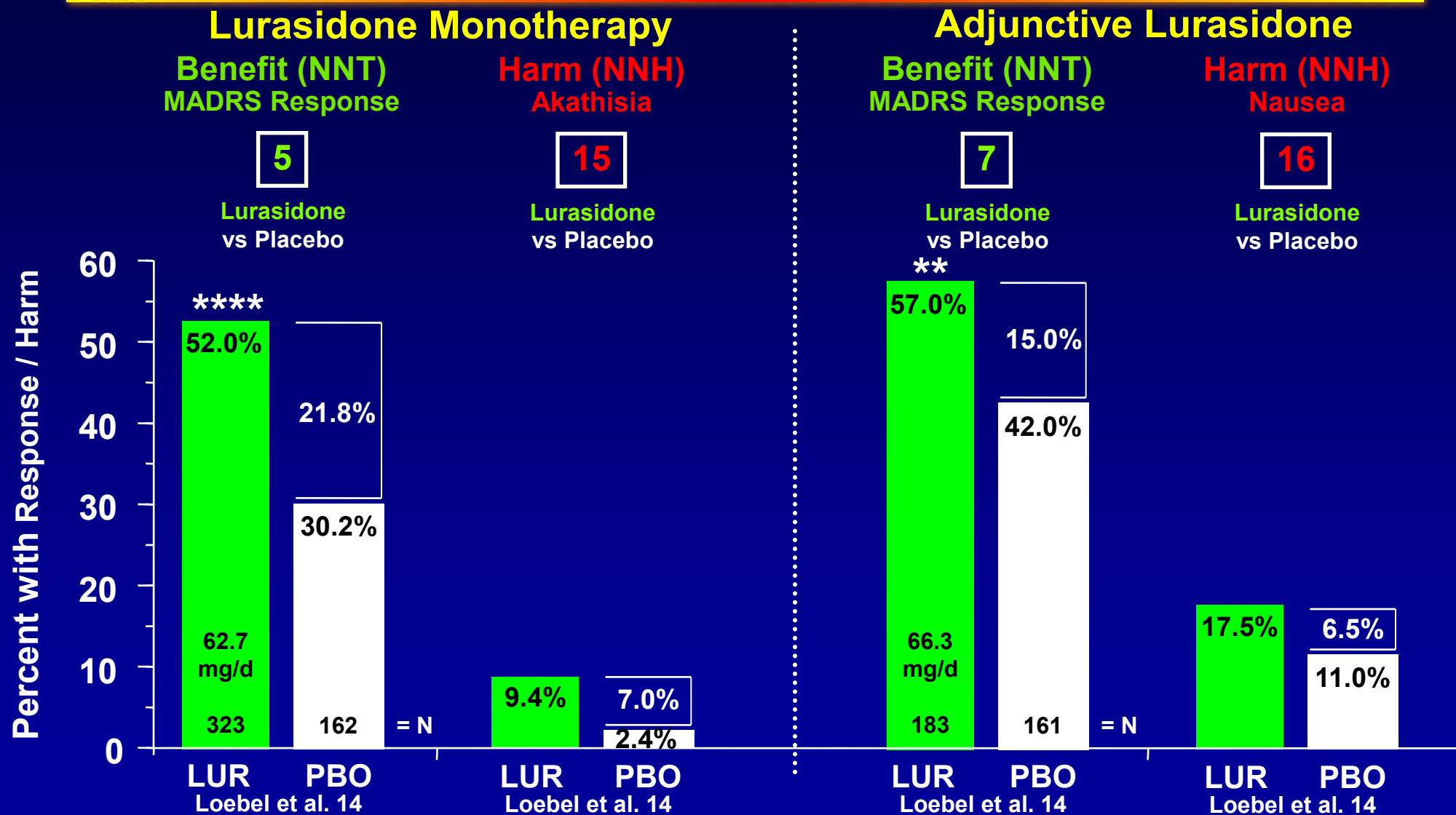
Numbers Needed to Treat & Harm, Response & Adverse Effect Rates



Approved treatments similarly likely to yield benefit and harm.

Newer Approved Bipolar Depression Rx Benefits & Harms

Numbers Needed to Treat & Harm, Response & Adverse Effect Rates



Lurasidone more than twice as likely to yield benefit as harm.

Unapproved Bipolar Depression Rx Benefits & Harms

Numbers Needed to Treat & Harm, Response & Adverse Effect Rates

Olanzapine (OFC U.S. Registration, 8 wks)

Benefit (NNT)
MADRS Response

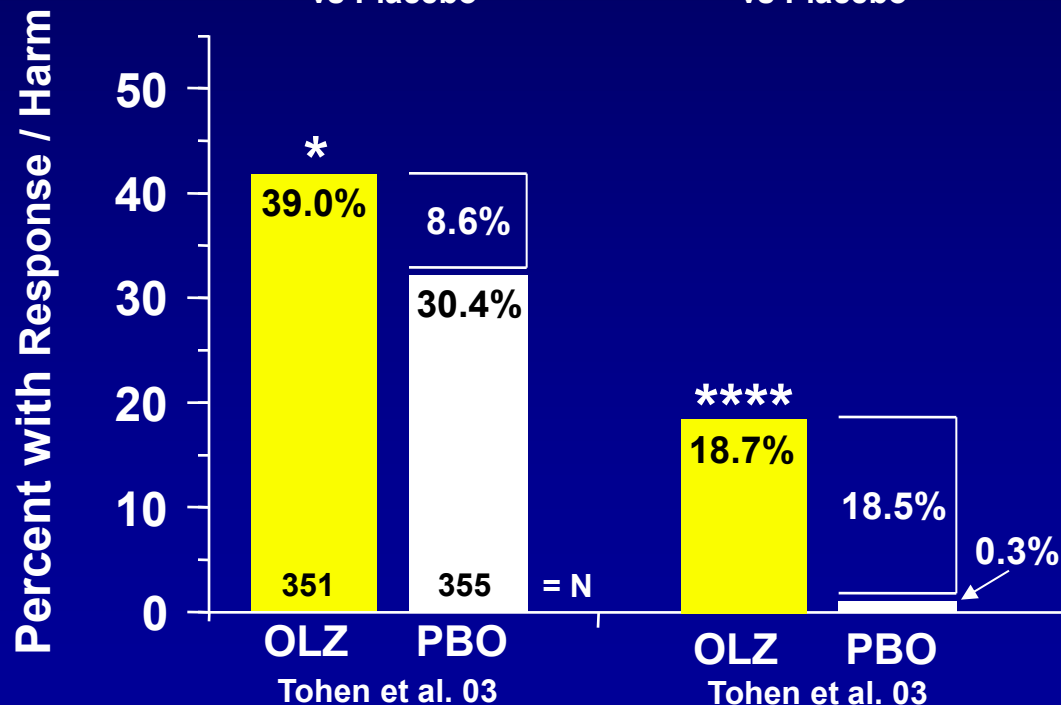
12

Olanzapine
vs Placebo

Harm (NNH)
≥ 7% Weight Gain

6

Olanzapine
vs Placebo



Olanzapine (OLZ International, 6 wks)

Benefit (NNT)
MADRS Response

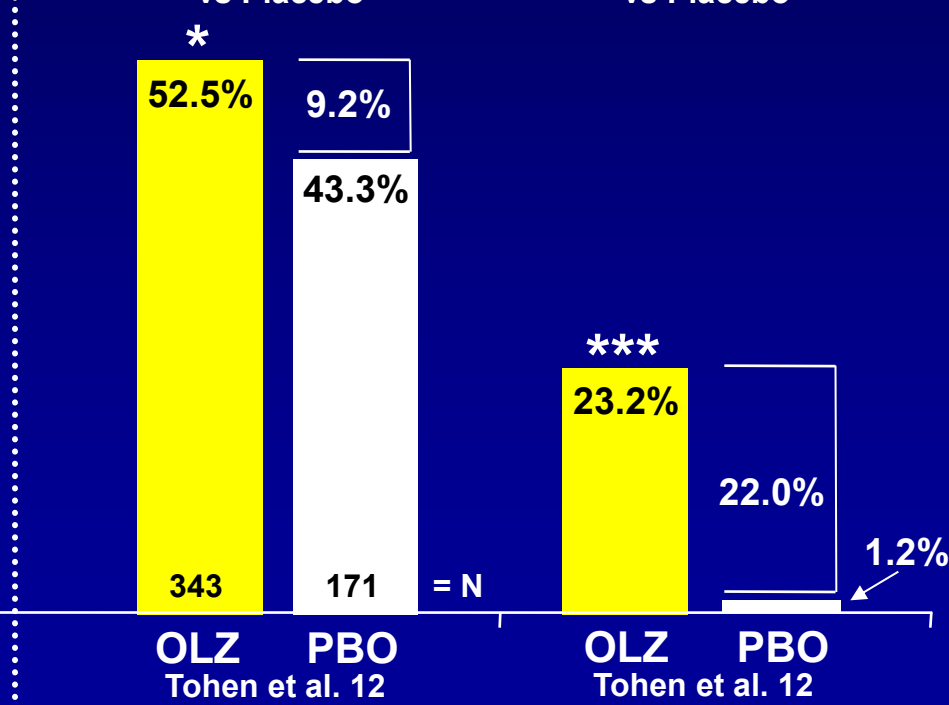
11

Olanzapine
vs Placebo

Harm (NNH)
≥ 7% Weight Gain

5

Olanzapine
vs Placebo



Olanzapine monotherapy more than twice as likely to yield harm as benefit.

Second Generation Antipsychotics in Bipolar Depression

- Fourth most common initial bipolar disorder treatment
 - Class somatic tolerability: < antidepressants; ≤ mood stabilizers
 - Class putative efficacy: acute mania & mania prevention
- FDA-approved for acute bipolar depression
 - Olanzapine (combined with fluoxetine)
 - Quetiapine (monotherapy)
 - Lurasidone (monotherapy and adjunctive therapy)
- Not FDA-approved for acute bipolar depression
 - Olanzapine (monotherapy)
 - Risperidone, ziprasidone, aripiprazole, asenapine
 - Clozapine, iloperidone, cariprazine
- Intolerability commonly limits utility

FDA-Approved Agents for Bipolar Disorder

Acute Mania

Acute Depression

Longer-Term

Year Drug

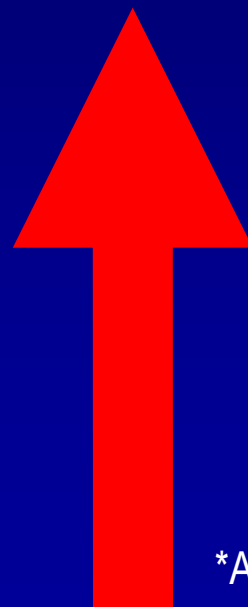
Year Drug

Year Drug

1970 Lithium
1973 Chlorpromazine
1994 Divalproex, ER (2005)
2000 Olanzapine*
2003 Risperidone*
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2004 Ziprasidone
2004 Aripiprazole*
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1974 Lithium
2003 Lamotrigine
2004 Olanzapine
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2008 Quetiapine, XR (adjunct)
2009 Risperidone LAI*
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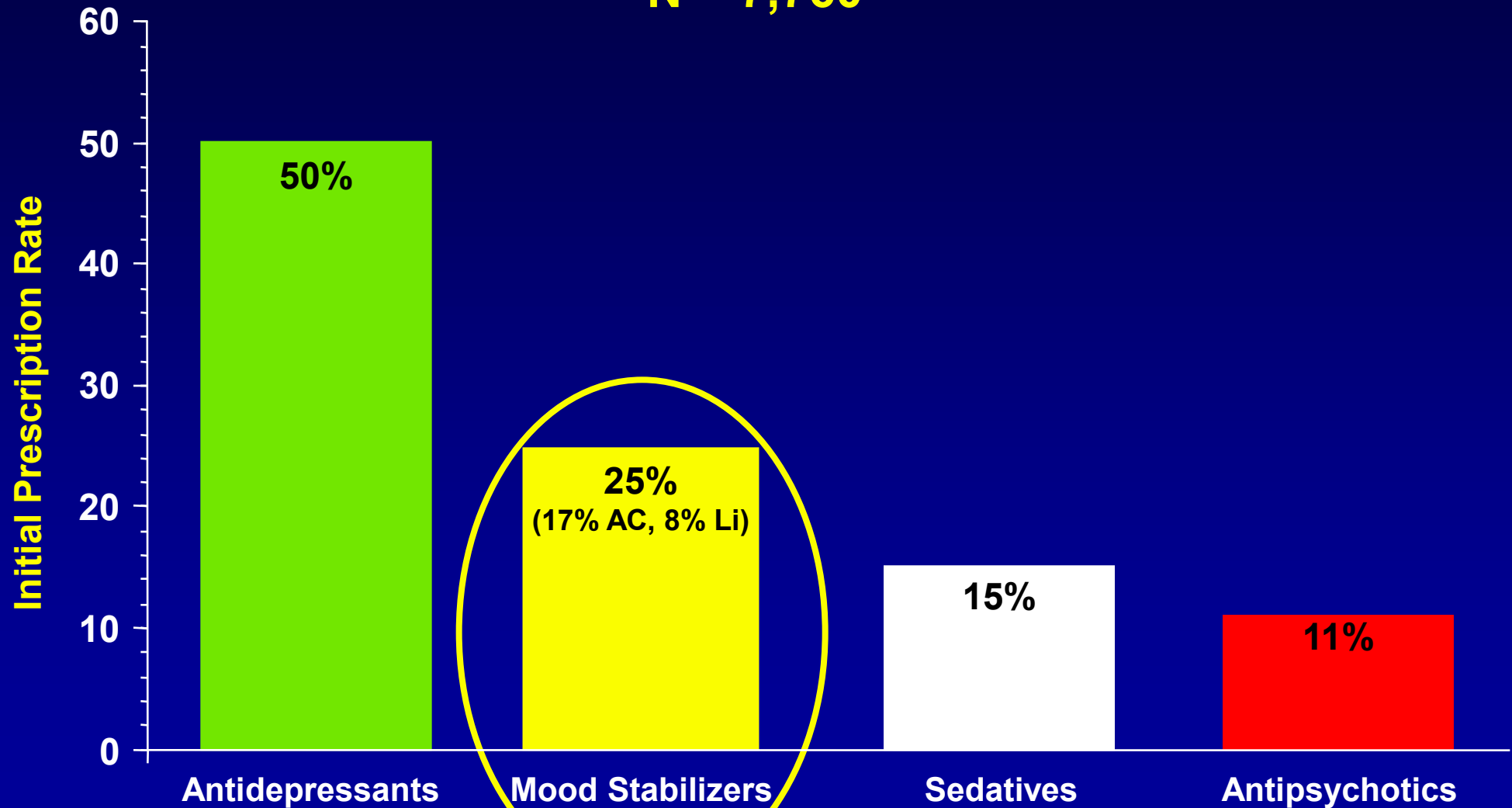


*Adjunctive and monotherapy; LAI = Long-Acting Injectable

No Mood Stabilizer has FDA approval for acute bipolar depression.

Mood Stabilizers Second Most Common Initial Treatment for Bipolar Disorder Patients in US in 2002-2003

N = 7,760



Baldessarini R, et al. Psychiatr Serv 2007;58:85-91.

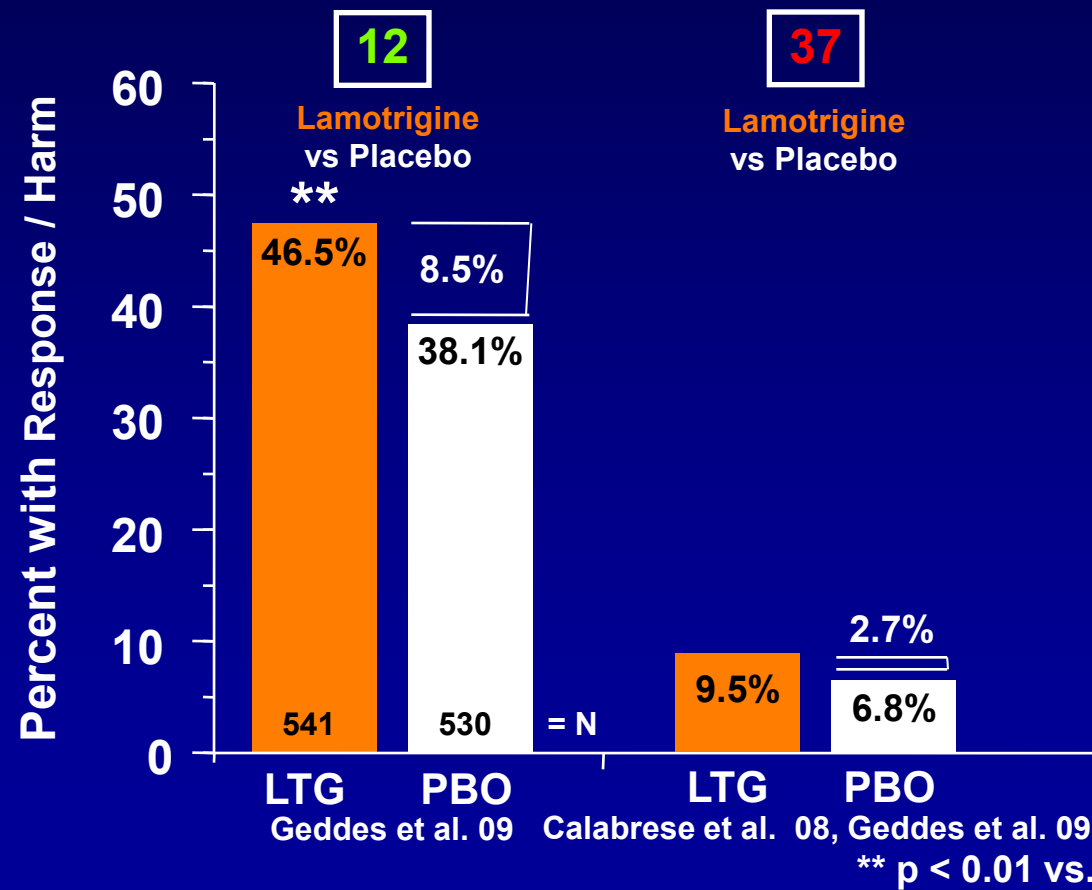
Unapproved Bipolar Depression Rx Benefits & Harms

Numbers Needed to Treat & Harm, Response & Adverse Effect Rates

Lamotrigine

Benefit (NNT)
MADRS Response

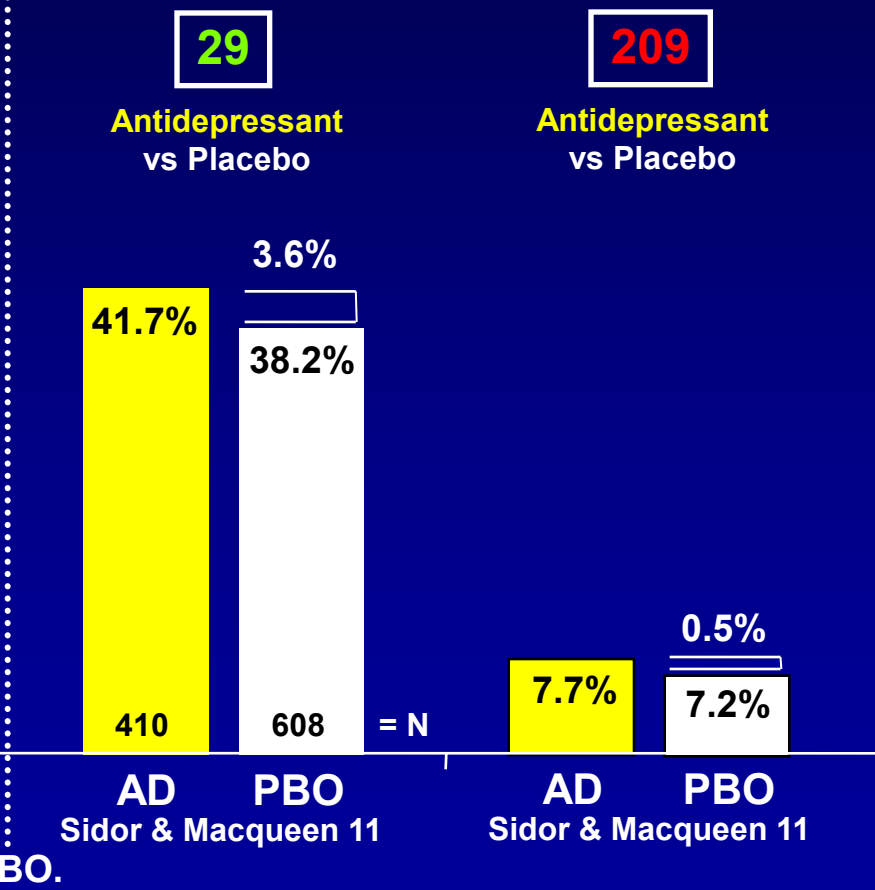
Harm (NNH)
Somnolence



Antidepressants

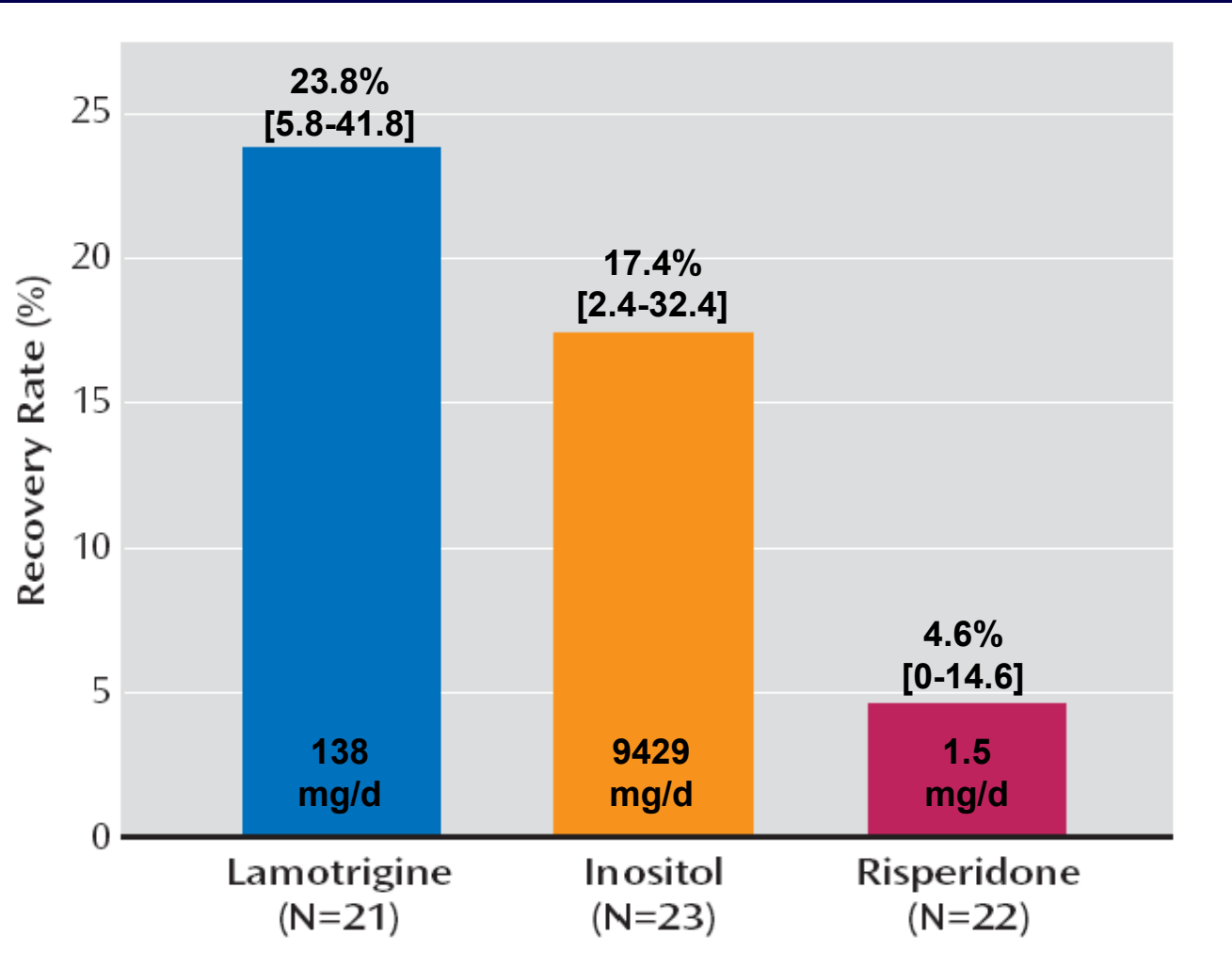
Benefit (NNT)
Response/Remission

Harm (NNH)
Mood Switch



Lamotrigine & antidepressants more than twice as likely to yield benefit as harm.

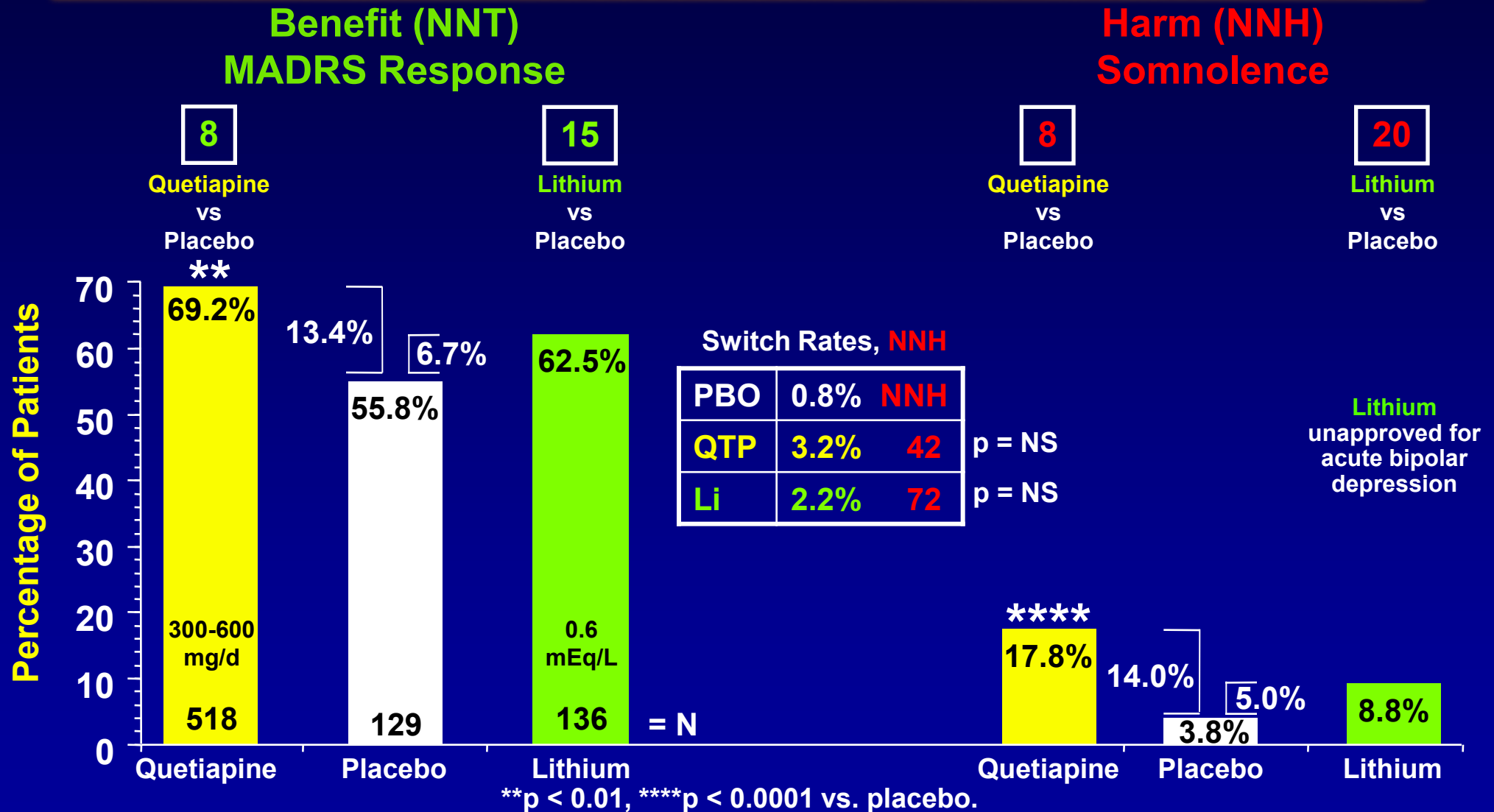
16-Week Randomized Open Adjunctive Therapy of Treatment Resistant Bipolar Depression ^a



Switch Rates

Lamotrigine	19%
Inositol	13%
Risperidone	13%

8-Week Randomized Double-Blind Quetiapine, Lithium, and Placebo in Acute Bipolar Depression (EMBOLDEN I)



Quetiapine and lithium similarly likely to yield benefit and harm.

Lithium and Suicide Risk in Major Affective Disorder

28 Reports* (16,800 Patients)

	No. of reports	Annual risk of suicide	
With lithium	22	0.26 ± 0.4	} 7 to 8-fold difference $p < 0.0001$
Without lithium	10	1.68 ± 1.5	

*19 of 28 reports (16,000 patients) recorded only actual suicides.

Tondo, et al. 1997.

Suicide and Suicide Attempts with Randomized Lithium or Carbamazepine

**30-month prospective study
in 285 recently hospitalized patients
(175 bipolar, 110 schizoaffective)**

	Suicide	Suicide Attempts	Total Suicidal Behavior
Lithium	0	0	0
Carbamazepine	5	4	9

Mood Stabilizer Choice and Suicide Events in Bipolar Disorder Patients in Two Large HMOs

Events per 1,000 pt-years

Medication	# of Pt's	Outpatient Attempts	Inpatient Attempts	Completed Suicides
Lithium	11,308	9.5	4.3	0.7
Divalproex	12,358	26.8*	10.65*	1.75*
Lithium + Divalproex ^a	3067	25.8*	11.8*	1.60

^aTreatment-resistant patients; *Sig. Diff from Lithium alone (p<.05)

Mood Stabilizer Choice and Suicide Events in Bipolar Disorder Patients in Two Large HMOs

Risk ratios of events relative to patients on lithium

(Adjusted for age, sex, year of treatment, comedications, comorbidity)

Medication	Outpatient attempts	Inpatient attempts	Completed Suicides
Lithium	1.0	1.0	1.0
Divalproex	1.7*	1.6*	2.6**
Divalproex + Lithium ^a	2.1*	2.1*	2.6

^aTreatment-resistant patients; Sig. Diff from Lithium alone (*p<.001; **p<.004)

Divalproex versus Placebo in Acute Bipolar Depression

- DVPX > placebo in 3 small parallel studies¹⁻³
 - DVPX (81 ug/mL) > placebo (N = 13, 12)¹
 - DVPX (70 ug/mL) > placebo (N = 9, 9)²
 - DVPX (82 ug/mL) > placebo (N = 26, 28)³
- DVPX = placebo in 1 small parallel study⁴
 - DVPX (62 ug/mL) > placebo (N = 21, 22)⁴
- Pooled response²⁻⁴/remission¹ rate (N=138)¹⁻⁴
 - DVPX 40.6%, placebo 18.8% (p = 0.009)

¹Davis LL, et al. J Affect Disord 2005;85:259-66; ²Ghaemi SN, et al. J Clin Psychiatry 2007;68:1840-4;

³Muzina DJ, et al. APA 161st Ann APA Mtg, Washington, DC, May 3-8, 2008;

⁴Sachs G, et al. 40th ACNP Ann Mtg, Waikaloa, Hawaii, December 9-13, 2001.

Mood Stabilizers in Acute Bipolar Depression

- **Second most common initial bipolar disorder treatment**
 - Class somatic tolerability: $\geq$ antipsychotics; $\leq$ antidepressants
 - Class established efficacy: acute mania and/or bipolar maintenance
- **FDA-approved for acute bipolar depression**
 - None!
- **Not FDA-approved for acute bipolar depression (all!)**
 - Lamotrigine (approved for maintenance - esp. depression prevention)
 - Lithium (approved for acute mania & maintenance - esp. mania prevention)
 - Divalproex (approved for acute mania; depression prevention efficacy?)
 - Carbamazepine (approved for acute mania)
- **Inefficacy and/or intolerability can limit utility**

FDA-Approved Agents for Bipolar Disorder

Acute Mania

Acute Depression

Longer-Term

Year Drug

Year Drug

Year Drug

1970 Lithium

1973 Chlorpromazine

1994 Divalproex, ER (2005)

2000 Olanzapine*

2003 Risperidone*

2004 Quetiapine, XR (2008)*

2004 Ziprasidone

2004 Aripiprazole*

2004 Carbamazepine ERC

2009 Asenapine*

2003 Olanzapine+fluoxetine
combination

2006 Quetiapine, XR (2008)

2013 Lurasidone*

1974 Lithium

2003 Lamotrigine

2004 Olanzapine

2005 Aripiprazole*

2008 Quetiapine, XR (adjunct)

2009 Risperidone LAI*

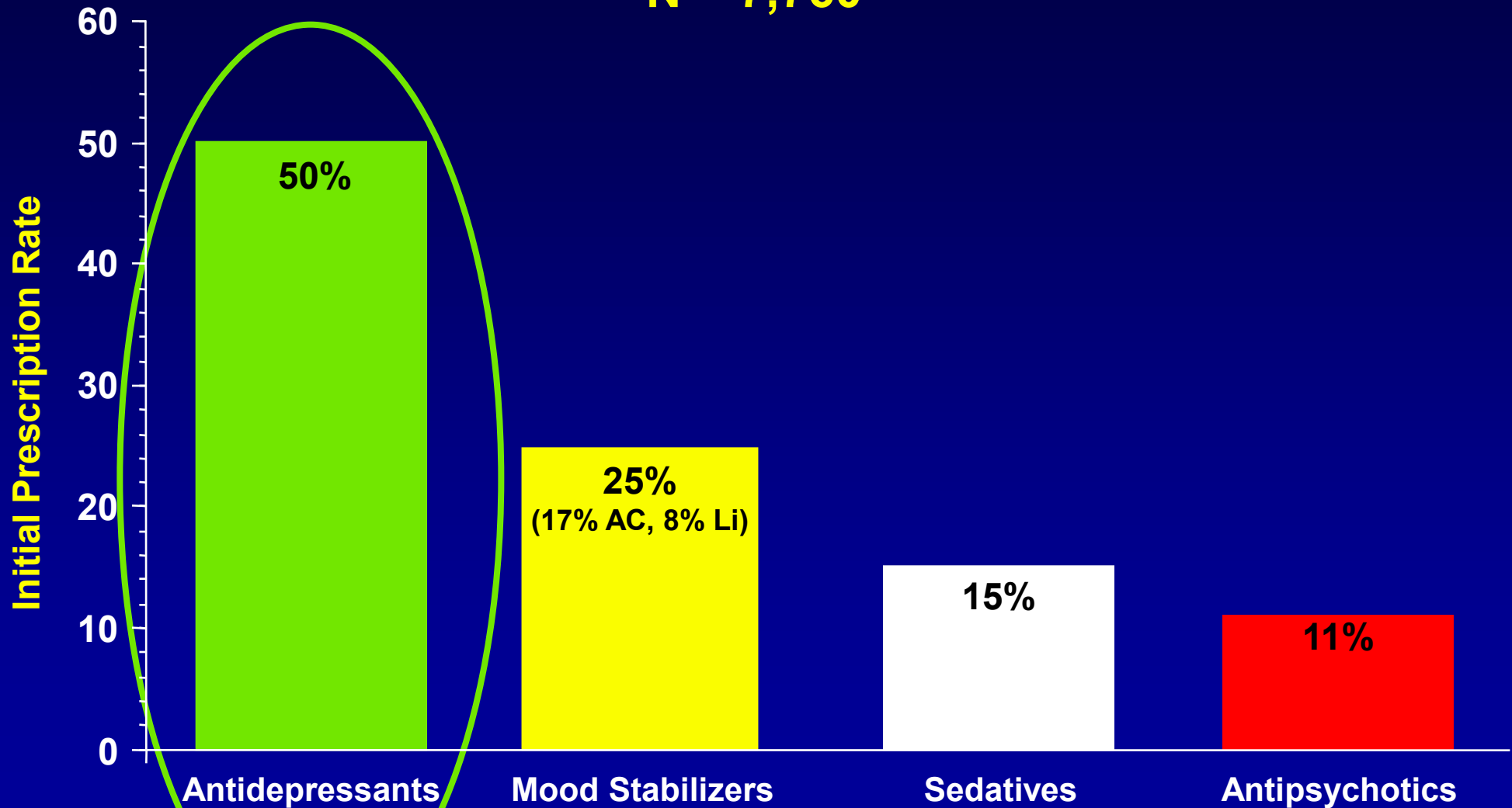
2009 Ziprasidone (adjunct)

*Adjunctive and monotherapy; LAI = Long-Acting Injectable

Fluoxetine (only with olanzapine) is sole antidepressant with FDA approval for bipolar depression.

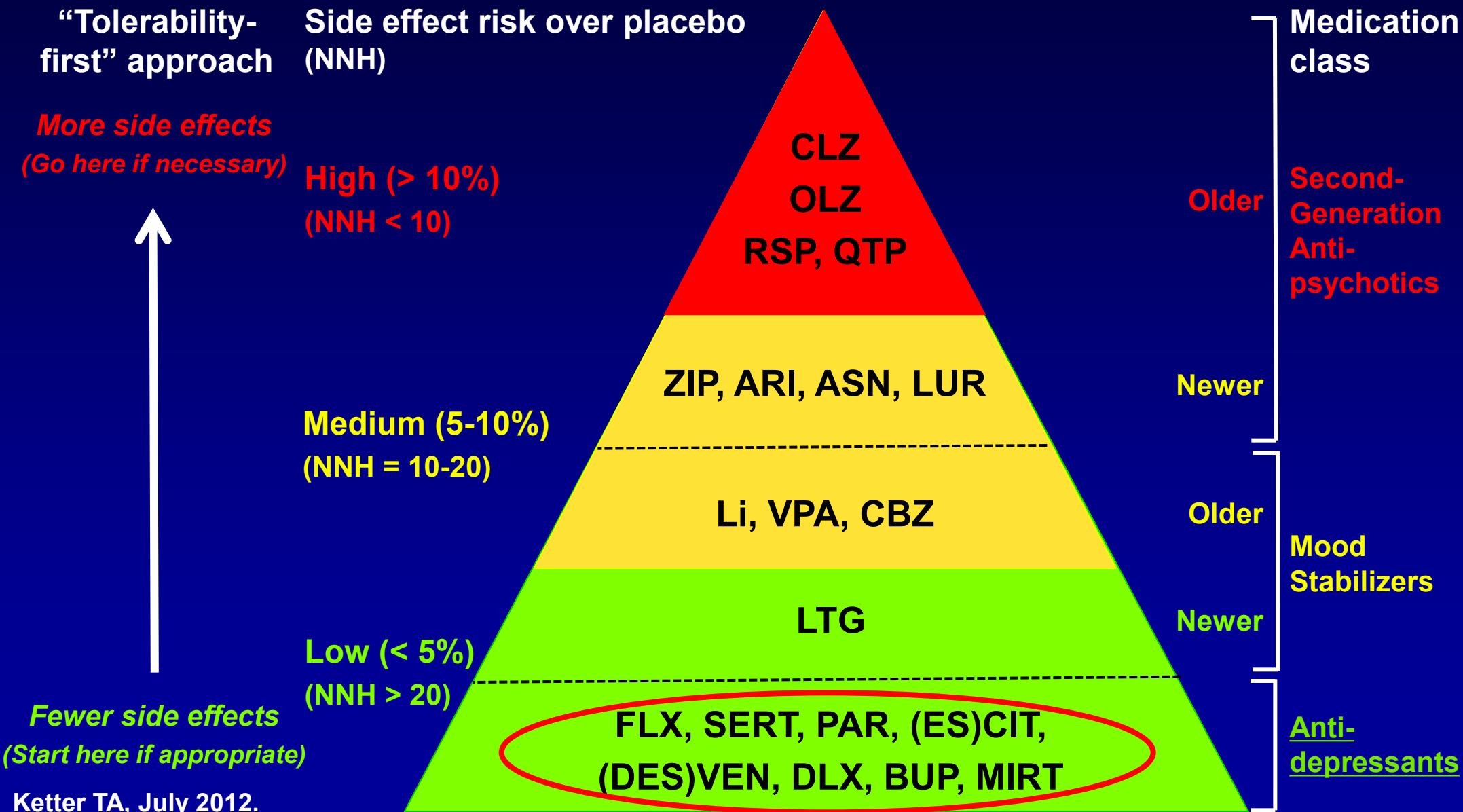
Antidepressants Most Common Initial Treatment for Bipolar Disorder Patients in US in 2002-2003

N = 7,760



Baldessarini R, et al. Psychiatr Serv 2007;58:85-91.

Antidepressants Have Fewer Side Effects Compared to Other Agents



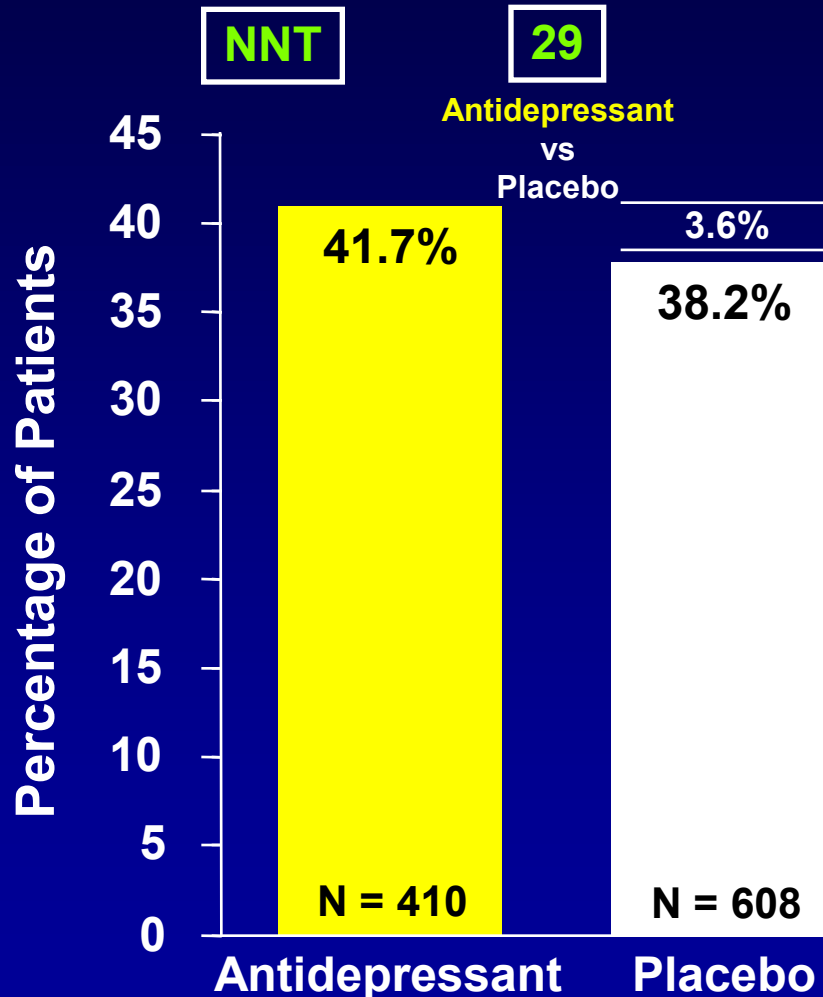
Antidepressant Class Suicidality Label Changes (2005-7)

- **Increased suicidality (suicidal behavior/ideation)**
- **Data from diverse antidepressants**
- **Children, adolescents, young adults (age ≤ 24)**
- **Screen depressed patients for risk of bipolar**
- **Suicidality risk increase**
 - **Children & adolescents (age < 18) – 14/1,000 (NNH = 72)**
 - **Young adults (age 18-24) – 5/1,000 (NNH = 200)**

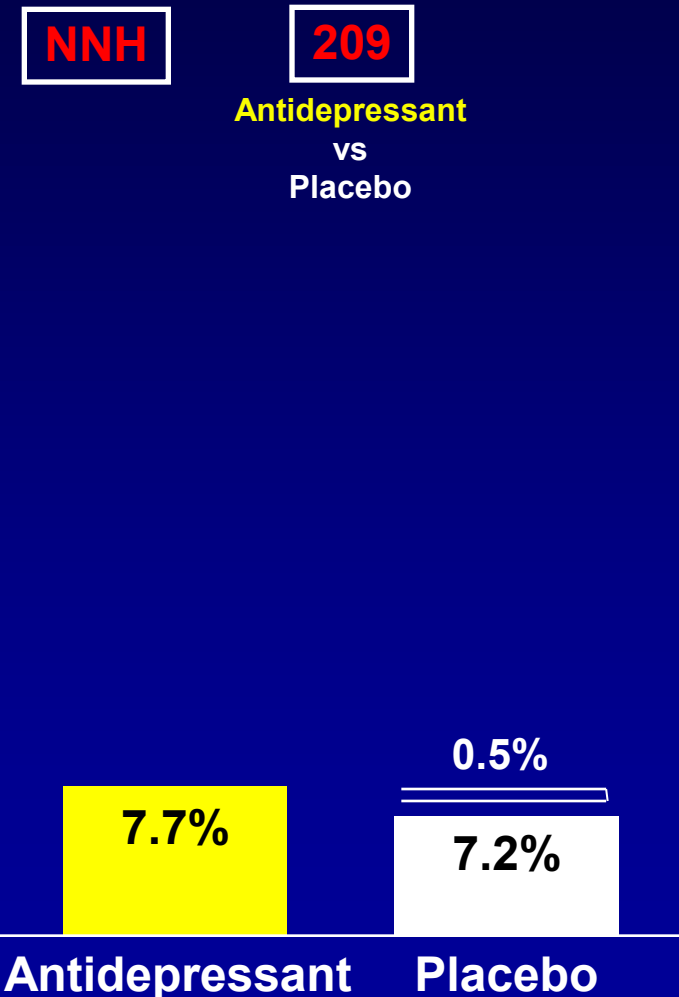
Antidepressant class warning – boxed, age ≤ 24 , NNH 72-200.

Meta-Analysis of Antidepressants in Acute Bipolar Depression

Response/Remission Rates



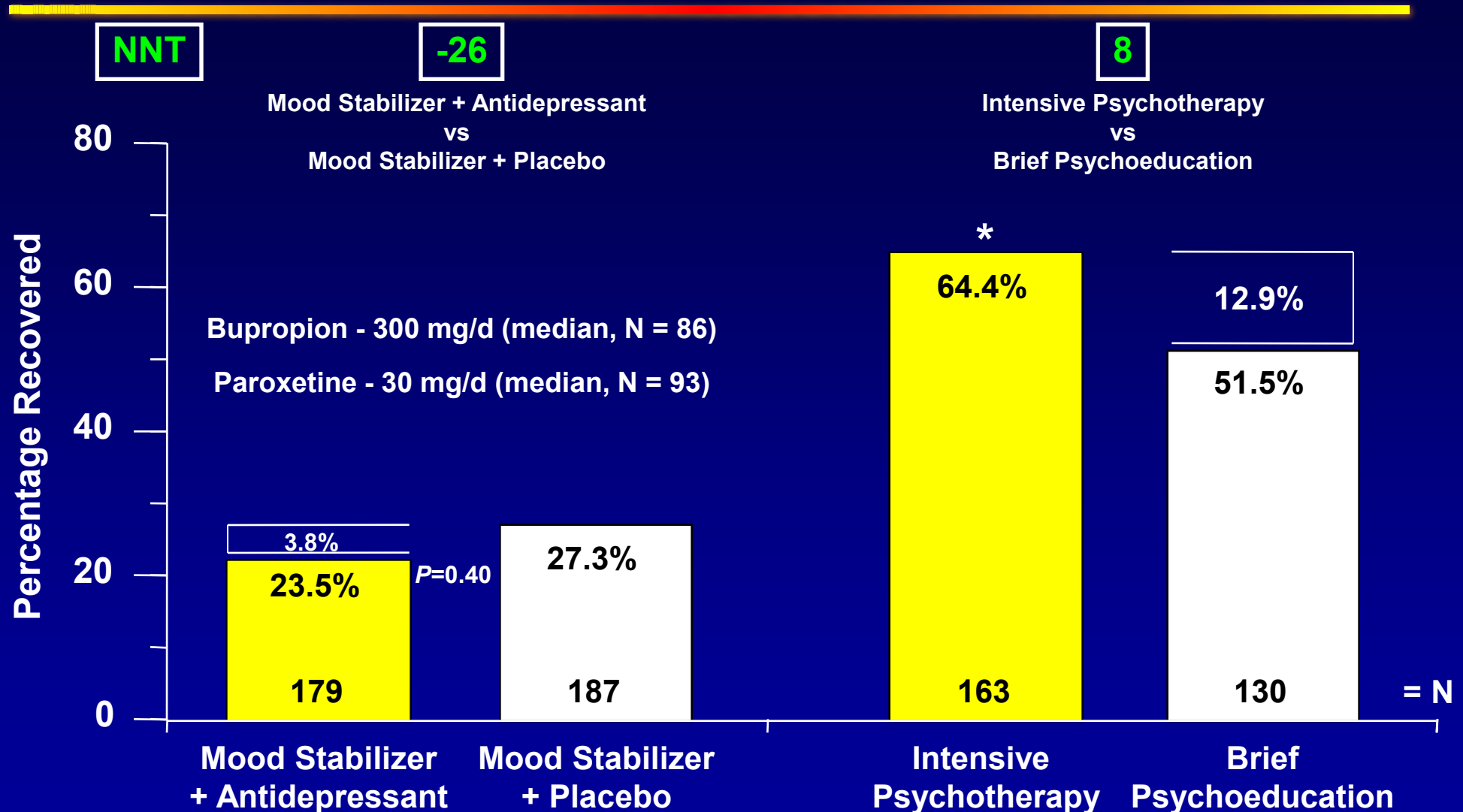
Switch Rates



Inefficacy may be most substantive problem with antidepressants in bipolar depression.

STEP-BD Randomized Bipolar Depression Studies

Numbers Needed to Treat for Recovery, Rates

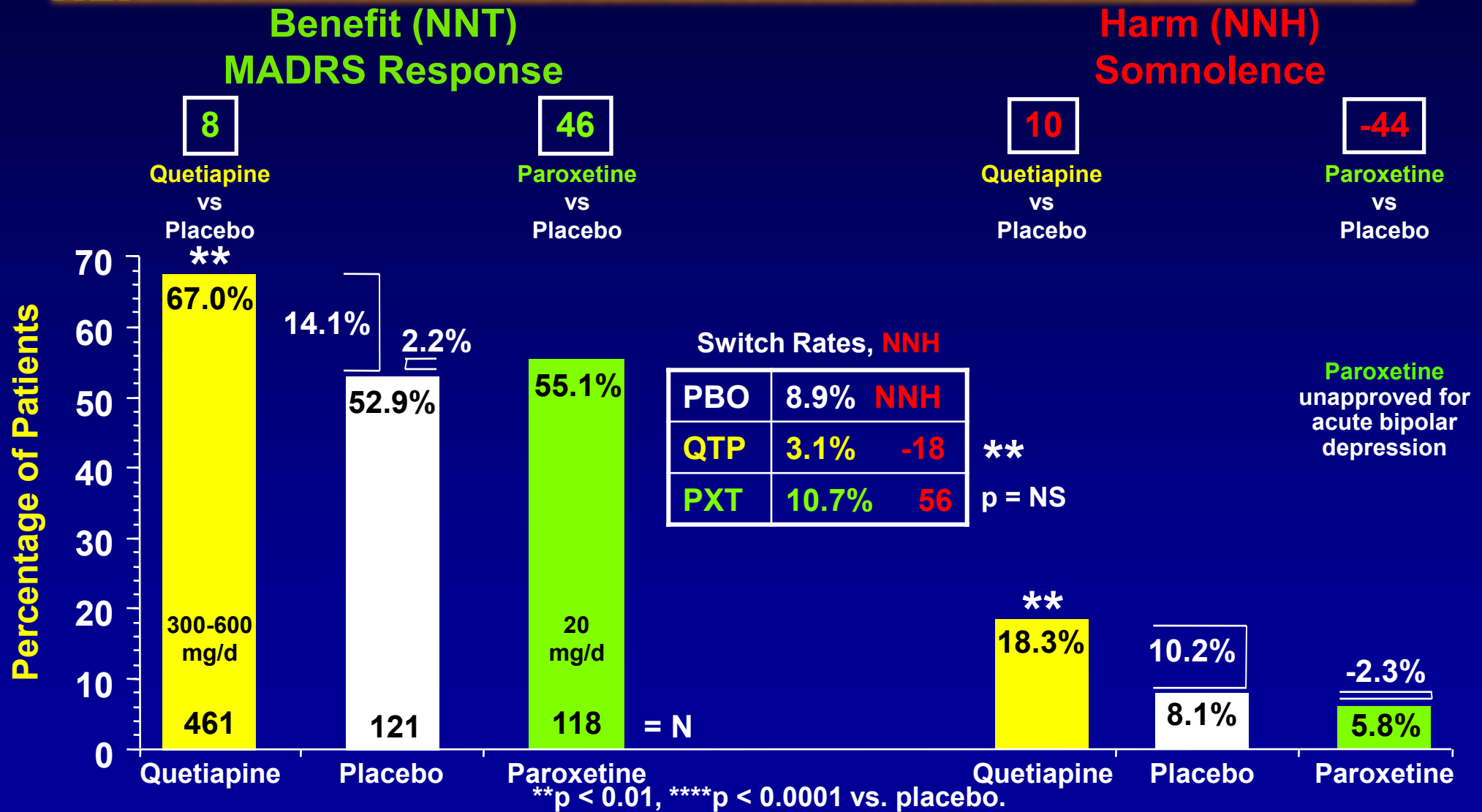


*p < 0.05 vs. Cntl. Sachs GS, et al. N Engl J Med 2007;356:1711-22.

Miklowitz DJ, et al. Arch Gen Psychiatry 2007;64:419-27.

Adjunctive psychotherapy (but not adjunctive antidepressants) increased recovery rate.

8-Week Randomized Double-Blind Quetiapine, Paroxetine, and Placebo in Acute Bipolar Depression (EMBOLDEN II)



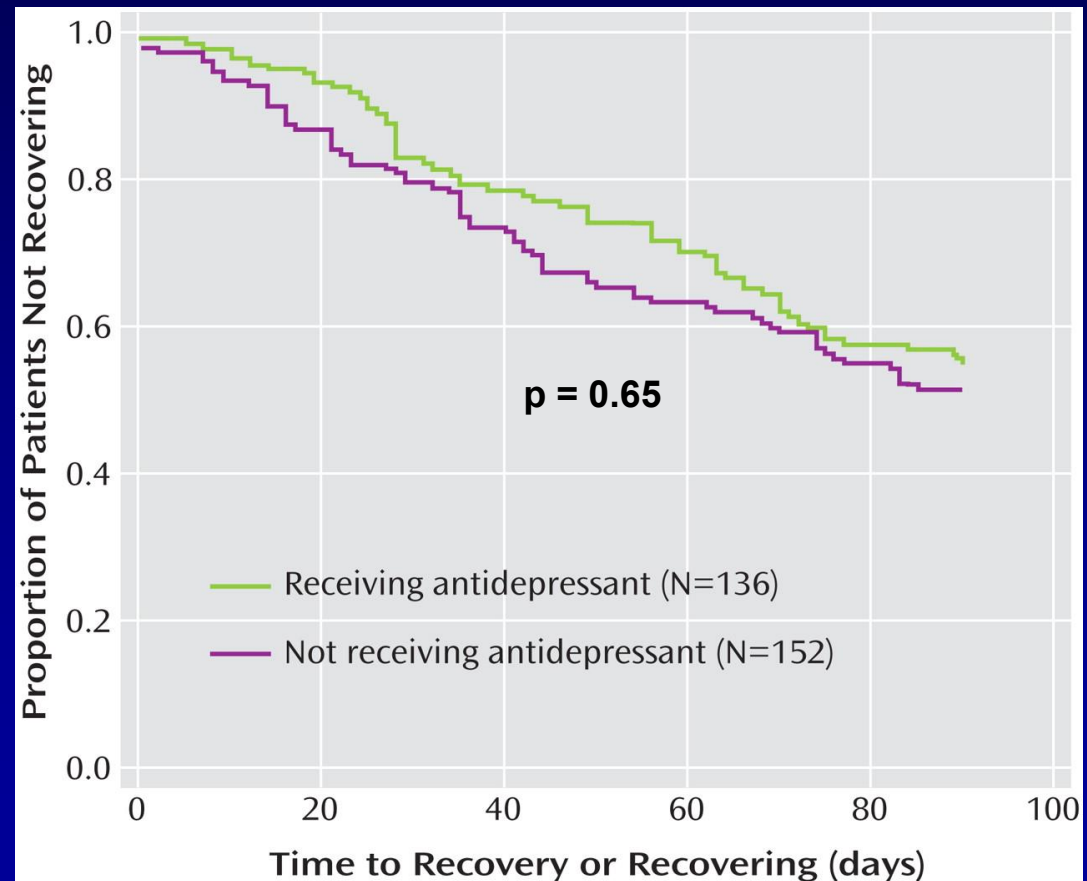
Quetiapine similarly and paroxetine more likely to yield benefit as harm.

Adjunctive Antidepressants in Bipolar Depression with ≥ 2 Concurrent Manic Symptoms

**STEP-BD Patients
Taking Mood Stabilizer or Atypical Antipsychotic**

Adjunctive Antidepressants vs. None

- Recovery - neither hastened nor delayed
- Mania symptom severity - greater at 3 months

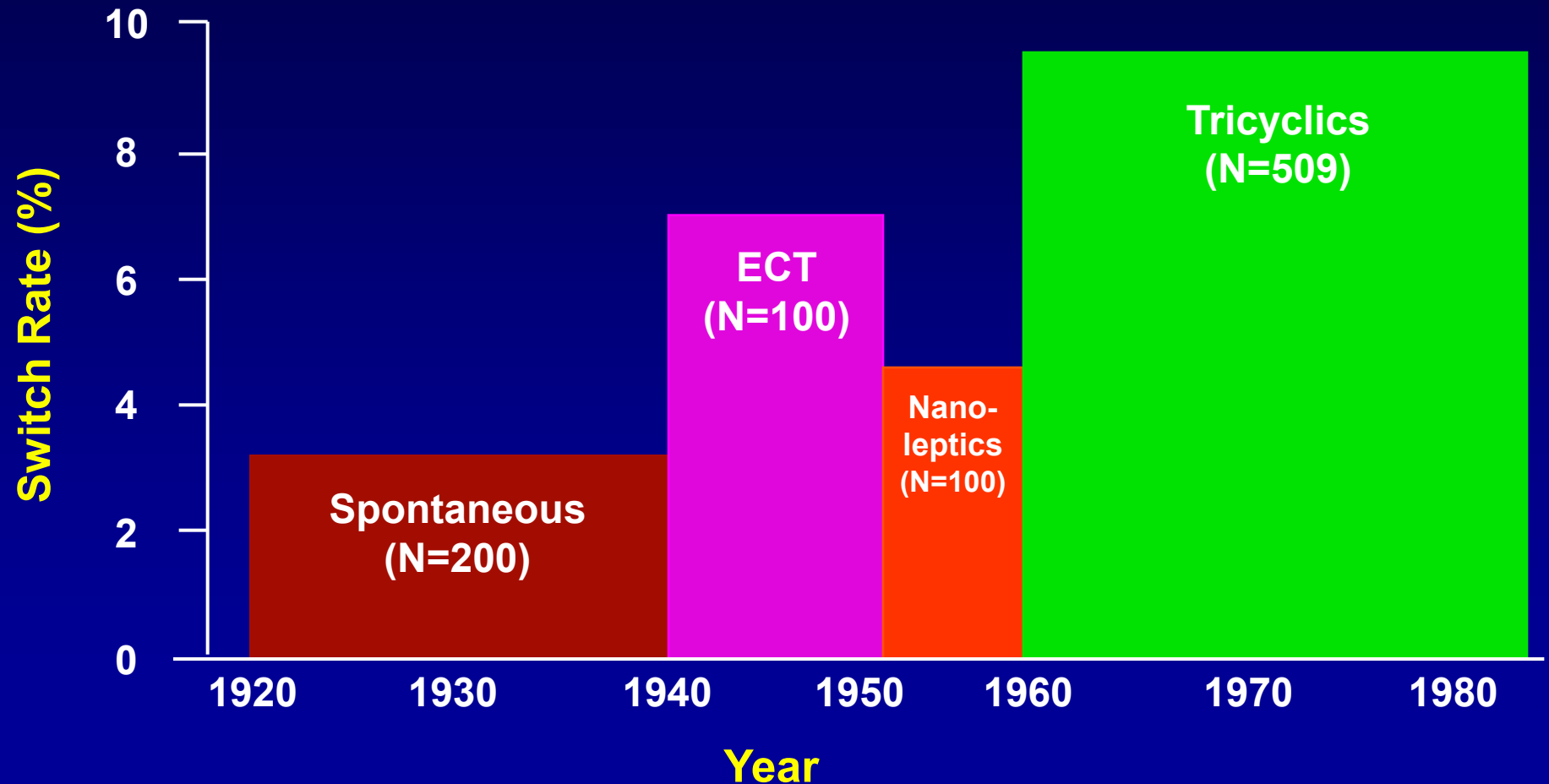


Do Antidepressants Induce Mania?

- 41% Natural switch rate depression to mania (on no antidepressants) ¹
- Switch rate on medications ²
 - 53% Imipramine
 - 28% Lithium plus imipramine
 - 26% Lithium

Switch Rate From Index Depression Into Mania

By Era and Prevailing Treatment

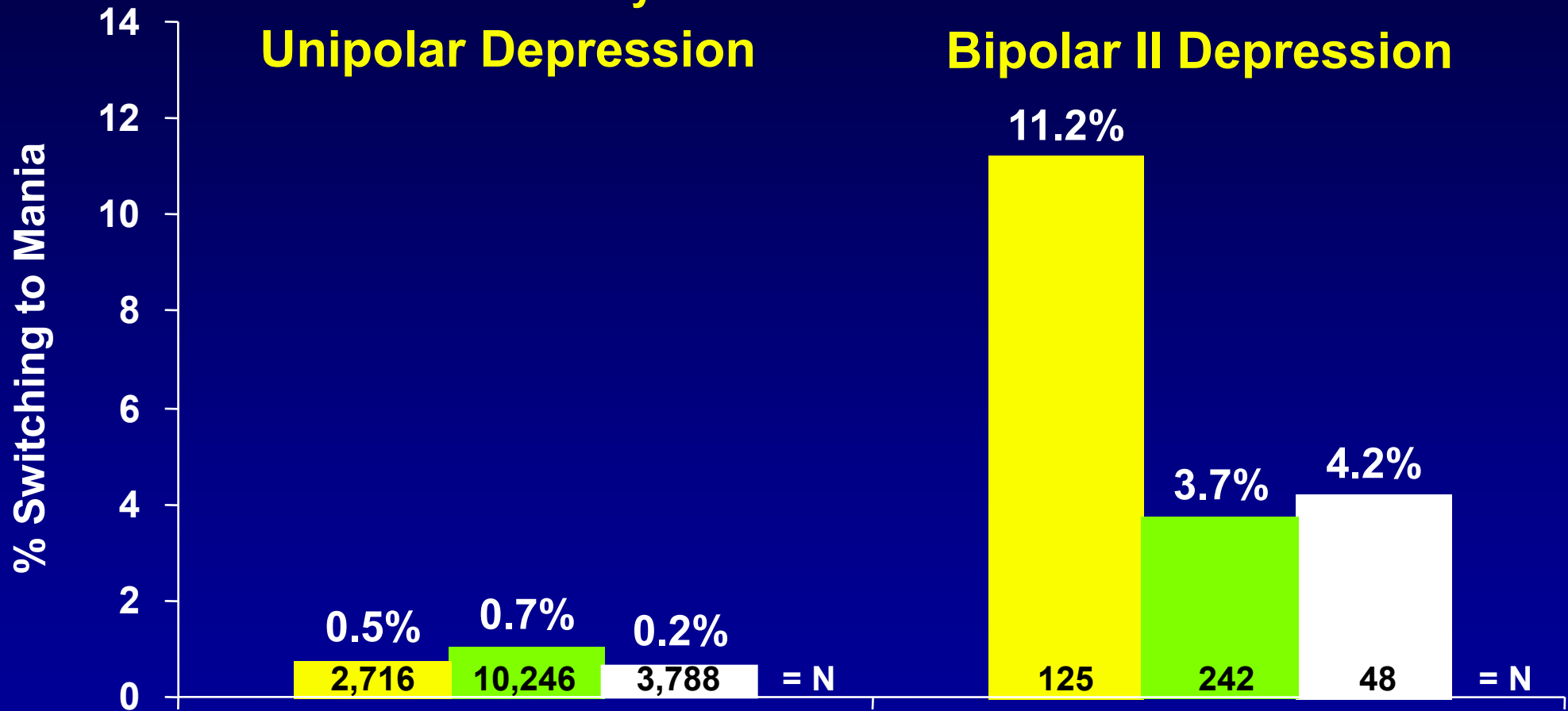


Antidepressant-Induced Mania More Common in Bipolar II Compared to Unipolar Depression

Meta-Analysis from Clinical Trials

Unipolar Depression

Bipolar II Depression



Significance: TCA = SSRI > Placebo

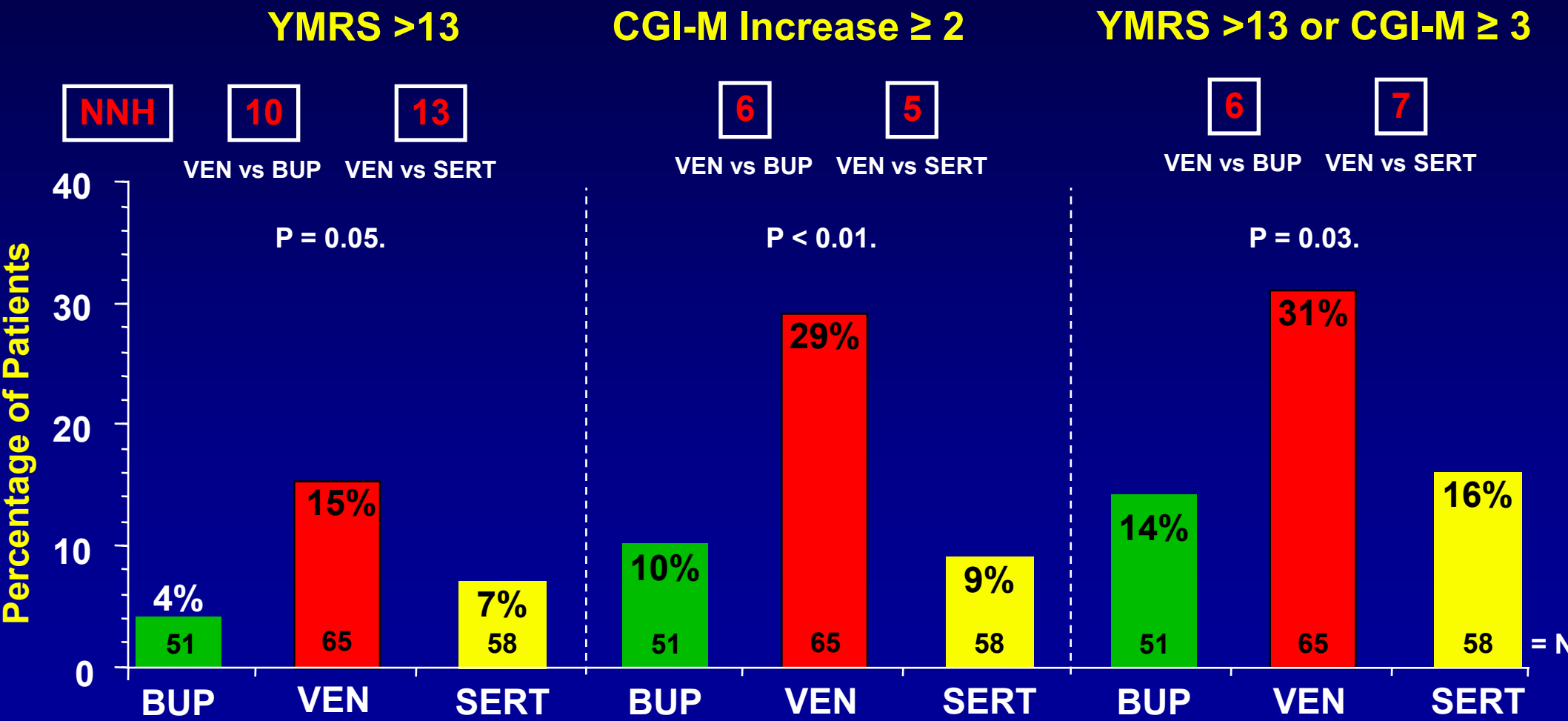
TCA > SSRI = Placebo

SSRI = fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, paroxetine, or sertraline

Switch Risk: Bipolar II > Unipolar; TCA ≥ SSRI ≥ Placebo.

Increased Switching with Adjunctive Venlafaxine Compared to Bupropion and Sertraline in Acute Bipolar Depression

Switch Rates



73% Bipolar I, 26% Bipolar II, 1% Bipolar NOS; 85% double-blind, 15% open.

Adjunctive venlafaxine (compared to sertraline, bupropion) yielded more switching.

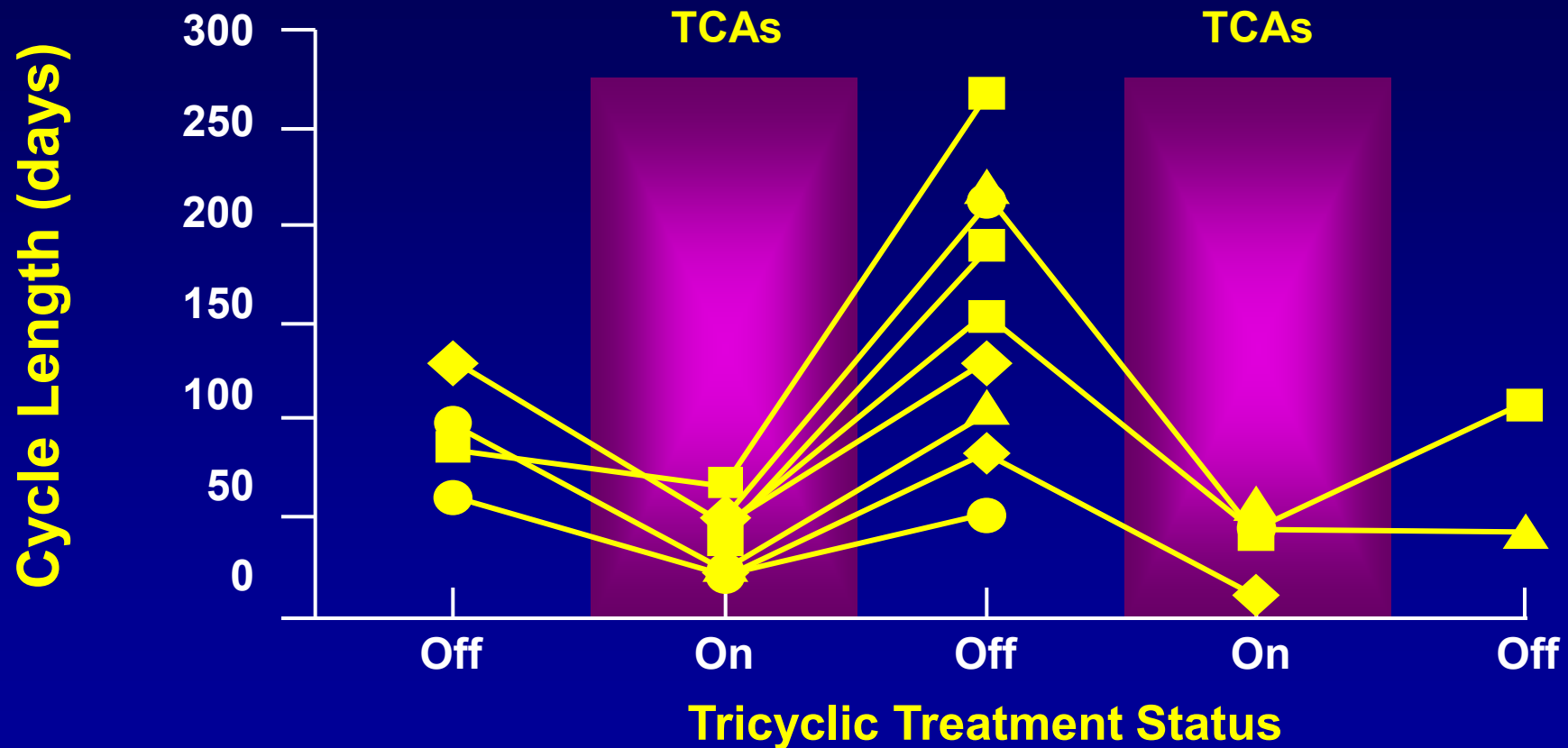
Do Antidepressants Induce Rapid Cycling?

- Increased rapid cycling since TCAs introduced ¹
- Mania rates over 2 years ²
 - 67% Imipramine
 - 33% Placebo
 - 18% Lithium
- Antidepressants induce reversible rapid cycling in double-blind placebo-controlled studies.³

Angst J. Psychopathology 1985¹; Prien RF, et al. Arch Gen Psychiatry 1973²;
Wehr TA, Goodwin FK. Psychopharmacol Bull 1987³

Tricyclics Shorten Cycle Length

10 Bipolar Disorder Patients



Antidepressant (AD) use in Bipolar Disorder: The ISBD Task Force Consensus Report

1. Adjunctive ADs for acute bipolar depression
 - **Permissible** if history of positive AD response
 - **Avoid** if ≥ 2 manic symptoms, psychomotor agitation, or rapid cycling
2. Adjunctive ADs for bipolar maintenance
 - **Permissible** if depressive relapse after stopping AD
3. AD monotherapy for acute bipolar depression
 - **Avoid** in bipolar I disorder
 - **Avoid** in bipolar I & II depression if ≥ 2 manic symptoms

Antidepressant (AD) use in Bipolar Disorder: The ISBD Task Force Consensus Report

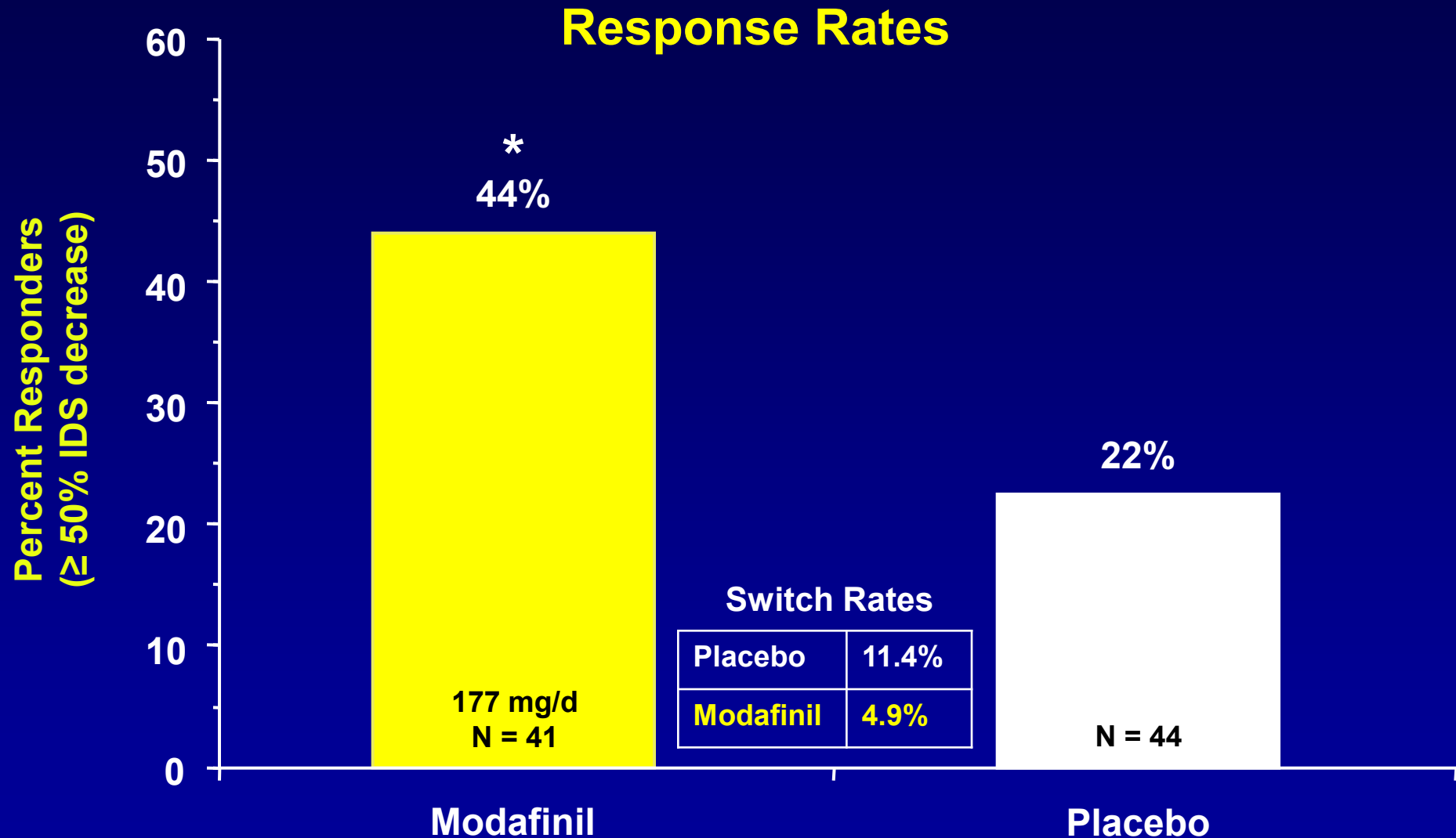
4. AD Switching to Hypo/mania, Mixed Features, Rapid Cycling
 - **Discontinue** if AD-emergent hypo/mania or psychomotor agitation
 - **Discourage** if prior AD-emergent hypo/mania or mixed features
 - **Avoid** if high number of episodes or rapid cycling
5. AD Use in Mixed States
 - **Avoid** in manic/depressive episodes with mixed features
 - **Avoid** in patients with predominantly mixed states
 - **Discontinue** if mixed state emerges
6. ADs with Increased Switch Risk (SNRIs & TCAs)
 - **Permissible** only if other ADs already tried & patient closely monitored

3/12 Permissible; 9/12 Avoid, Discontinue, Discourage.

Antidepressants in Acute Bipolar Depression

- Most common initial bipolar disorder treatment
 - Class somatic tolerability: > antipsychotics; ≥ mood stabilizers
 - Class established efficacy: unipolar (but not bipolar) depression
- FDA-approved for acute bipolar depression
 - Fluoxetine (only combined with olanzapine)
- Not FDA-approved for acute bipolar depression
 - Fluoxetine with other antimanic agents
 - All other antidepressants with antimanic agents
 - All antidepressants as monotherapy
- Inefficacy perhaps more than switching may limit utility

6-week Randomized Double-Blind Adjunctive Modafinil in Acute Bipolar Depression

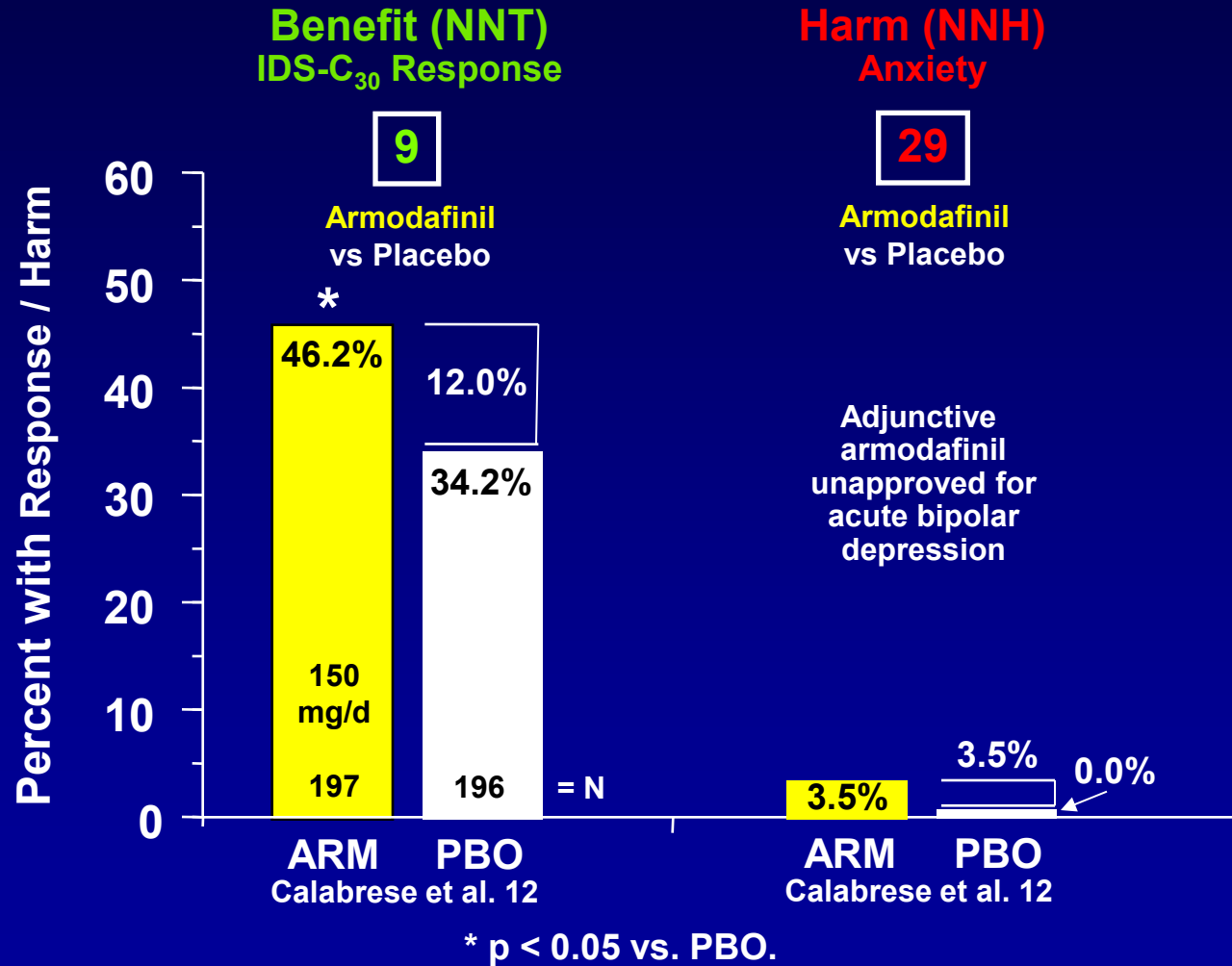


*p < 0.05 vs placebo.

Frye M, et al. Am J Psychiatry 2007;164:1242-9.

Adjunctive Armodafinil in Bipolar Depression Benefits & Harms

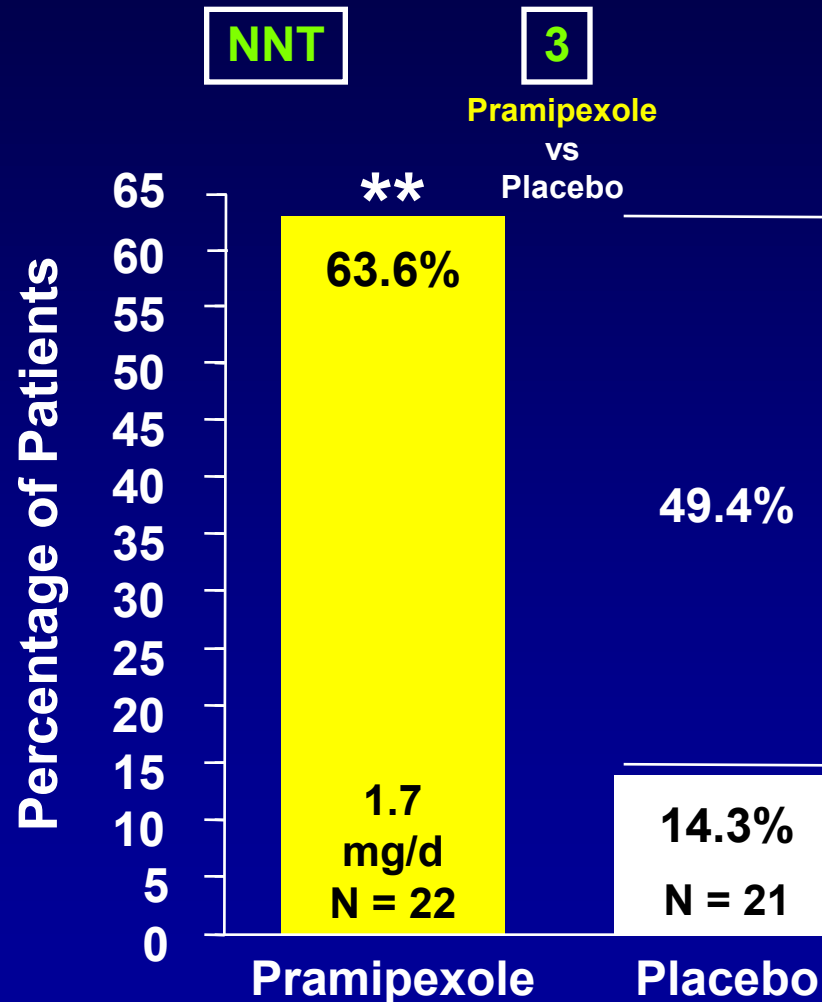
Numbers Needed to Treat & Harm, Response & Adverse Effect Rates



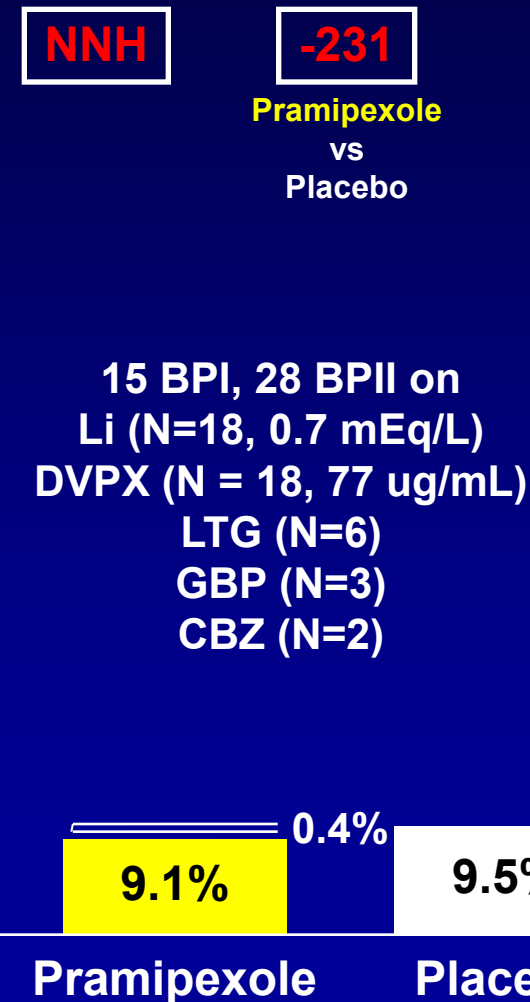
2 subsequent studies were negative.

(Pooled) 6-week Randomized Double-Blind Adjunctive Pramipexole in Acute Bipolar Depression

Response Rates



Switch Rates



**p = 0.0016 vs. PBO

Response: $\geq 50\%$ HDRS/MADRS decrease

Goldberg JF, et al. Am J Psychiatry 2004;161:564-6; Zarate CA, et al. Biol Psychiatry 2004;56:54-60.

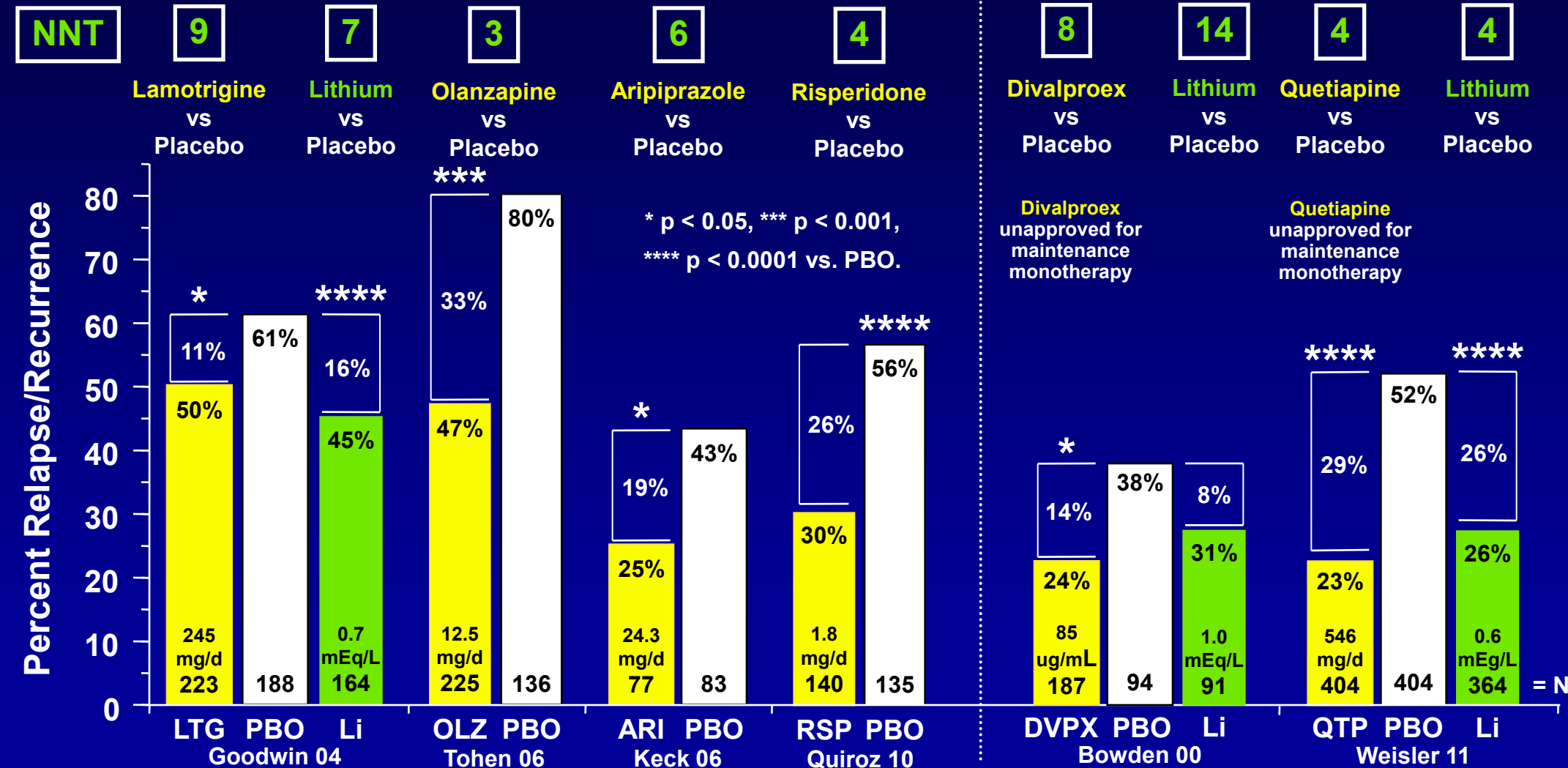
Maintenance Treatment of Bipolar Depression

Overview of Monotherapy Bipolar Preventive Studies

Numbers Needed to Treat for Relapse/Recurrence Prevention, Rates

Contemporary Registration Studies

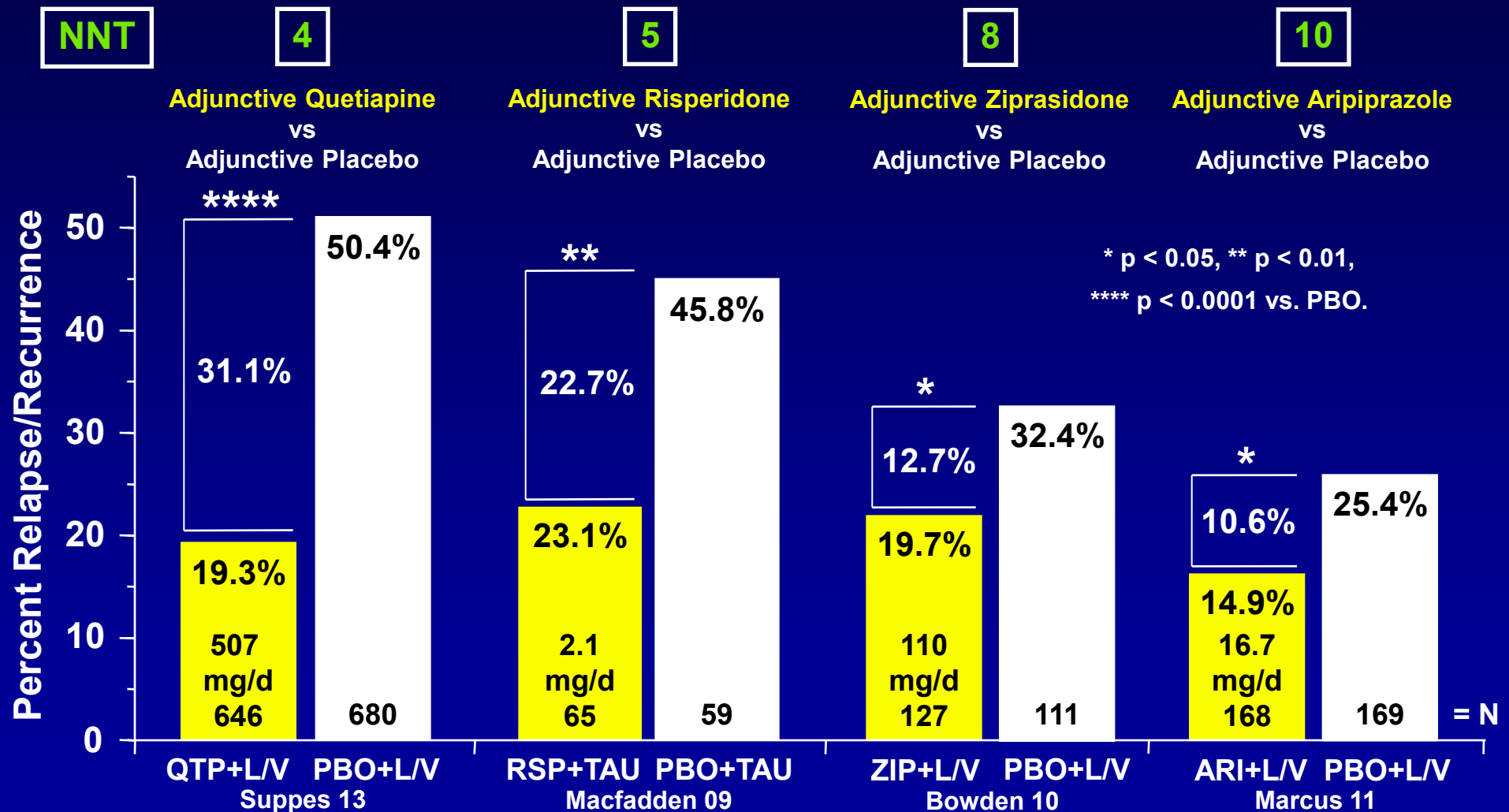
Other Studies



Overview of Adjunctive Therapy Bipolar Preventive Studies

Numbers Needed to Treat for Relapse/Recurrence Prevention, Rates

Contemporary Registration Studies



Approved maintenance treatments generally have single-digit NNTs.

Numbers Needed to Treat in Bipolar Maintenance

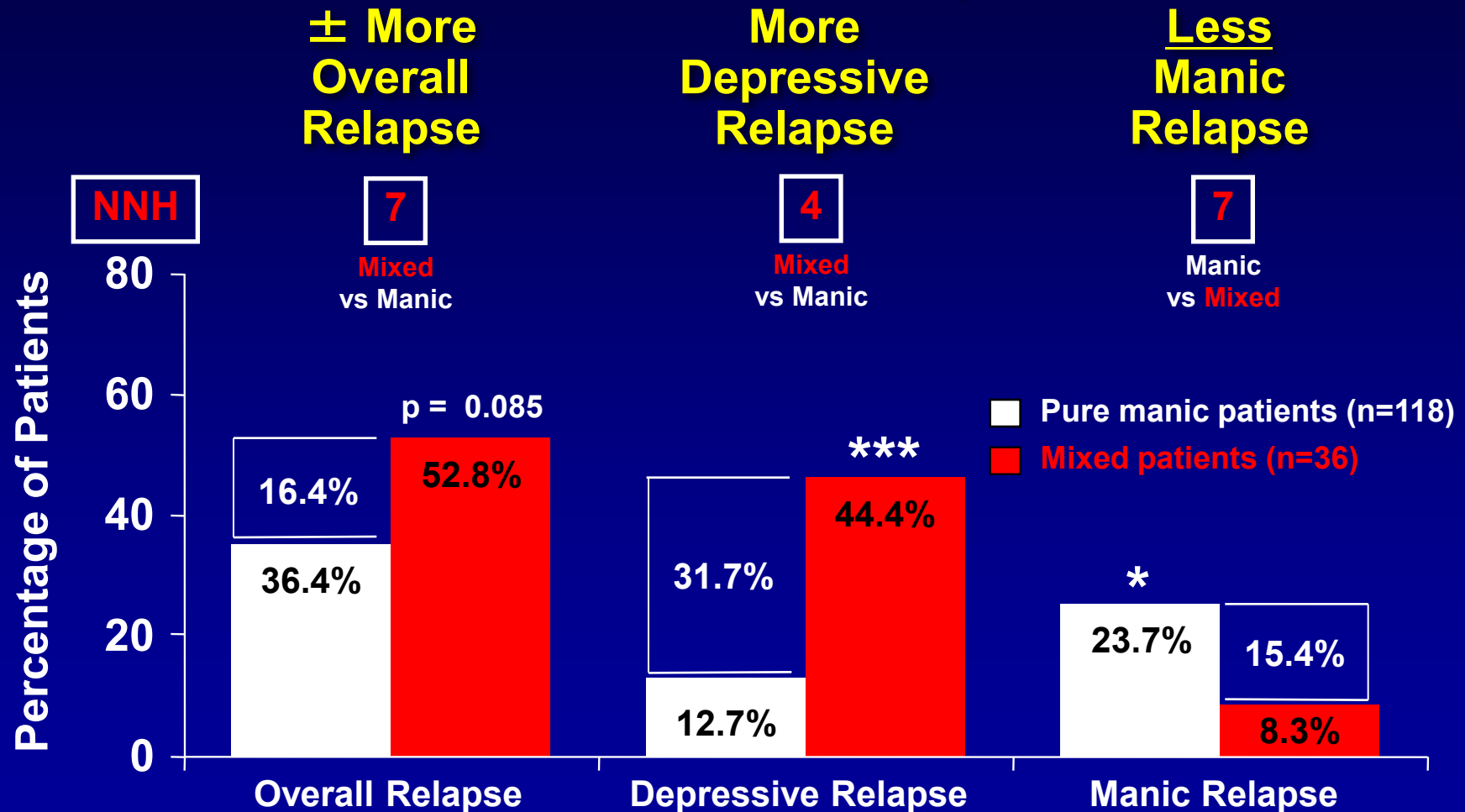
	Episode Prevention	Mania Prevention	Depression Prevention
Mood Stabilizers			
Lithium ¹	5	7	17
Divalproex ²	8 (unapproved)	22 (unapproved)	11 (unapproved)
Lamotrigine ¹	9	23	15
Atypical Antipsychotics			
Olanzapine ³	3	5	12
Aripiprazole ⁴	6	6	64
Risperidone LAI ⁵	4	4	-26
Quetiapine ⁶	4 (unapproved)	6 (unapproved)	9 (unapproved)
Paliperidone ⁷	13 (unapproved)	8 (unapproved)	-17 (unapproved)
Aripiprazole + Lithium/Divalproex ^{8 *}	10	13	42
Quetiapine + Lithium/Divalproex ^{9 *}	4	6	9
Ziprasidone + Lithium/Divalproex ^{10 *}	8	10	56
Risperidone LAI + Lithium/Divalproex ^{11 *}	5	7	16

White boldface indicates approved treatments. Yellow boldface indicates noteworthy NNTs. *vs. lithium/divalproex monotherapy.

FDA approved Bipolar Disorder maintenance treatments generally have single-digit overall NNTs.

Differential Recurrence Risks with Mixed Compared to Pure Manic Index Episodes

24-Month Naturalistic Maintenance in Mixed Compared to Pure Manic Patients

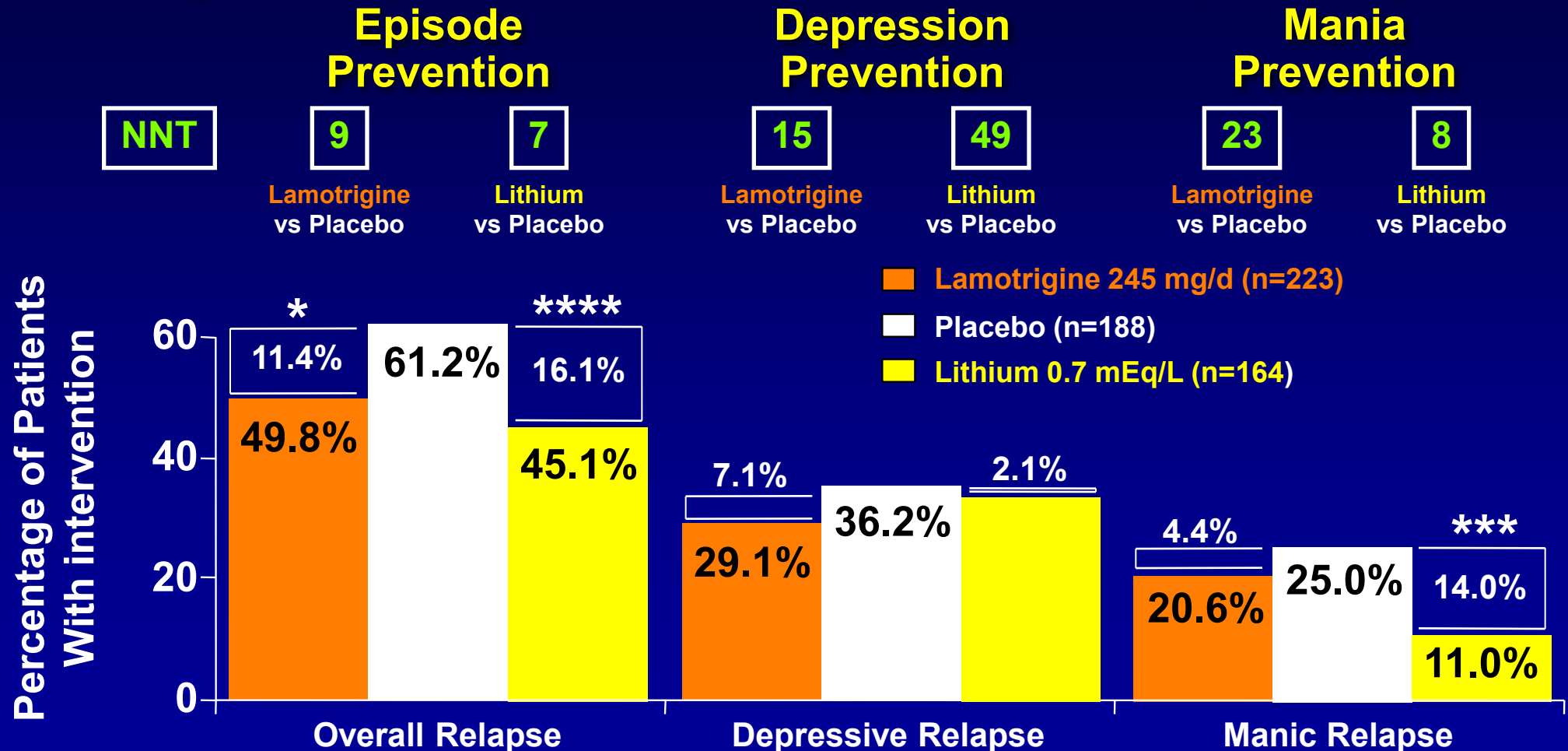


Tohen M, et al. Am J Psychiatry 2003;160:2099–2107. *p < 0.05, ***p < 0.001.

Mixed episodes increased depression recurrence, pure manic episodes increased mania recurrence.

18-Month Double-Blind Lamotrigine Monotherapy vs Lithium Monotherapy vs Placebo Maintenance

Lamotrigine Compared to Placebo After Manic/Mixed/Depressed Episodes

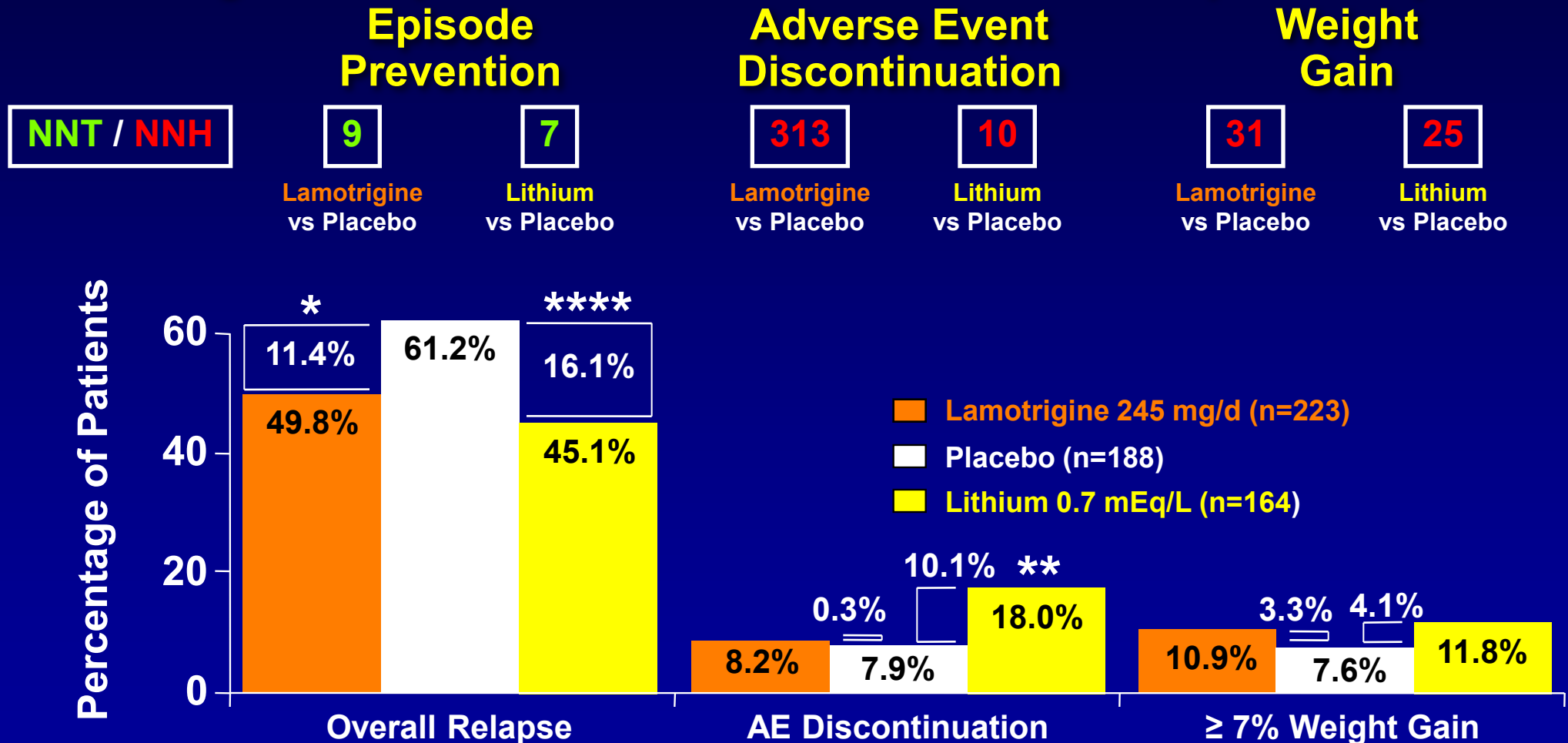


Goodwin et al. J Clin Psychiatry 2004;65:432-41. *p<.05, ***p < 0.001, ****p < 0.0001 vs PBO.

Lamotrigine and lithium compared to placebo yielded less relapse/recurrence.

18-Month Double-Blind Lamotrigine Monotherapy vs Lithium Monotherapy vs Placebo Maintenance

Lamotrigine Compared to Placebo After Manic/Mixed/Depressed Episodes

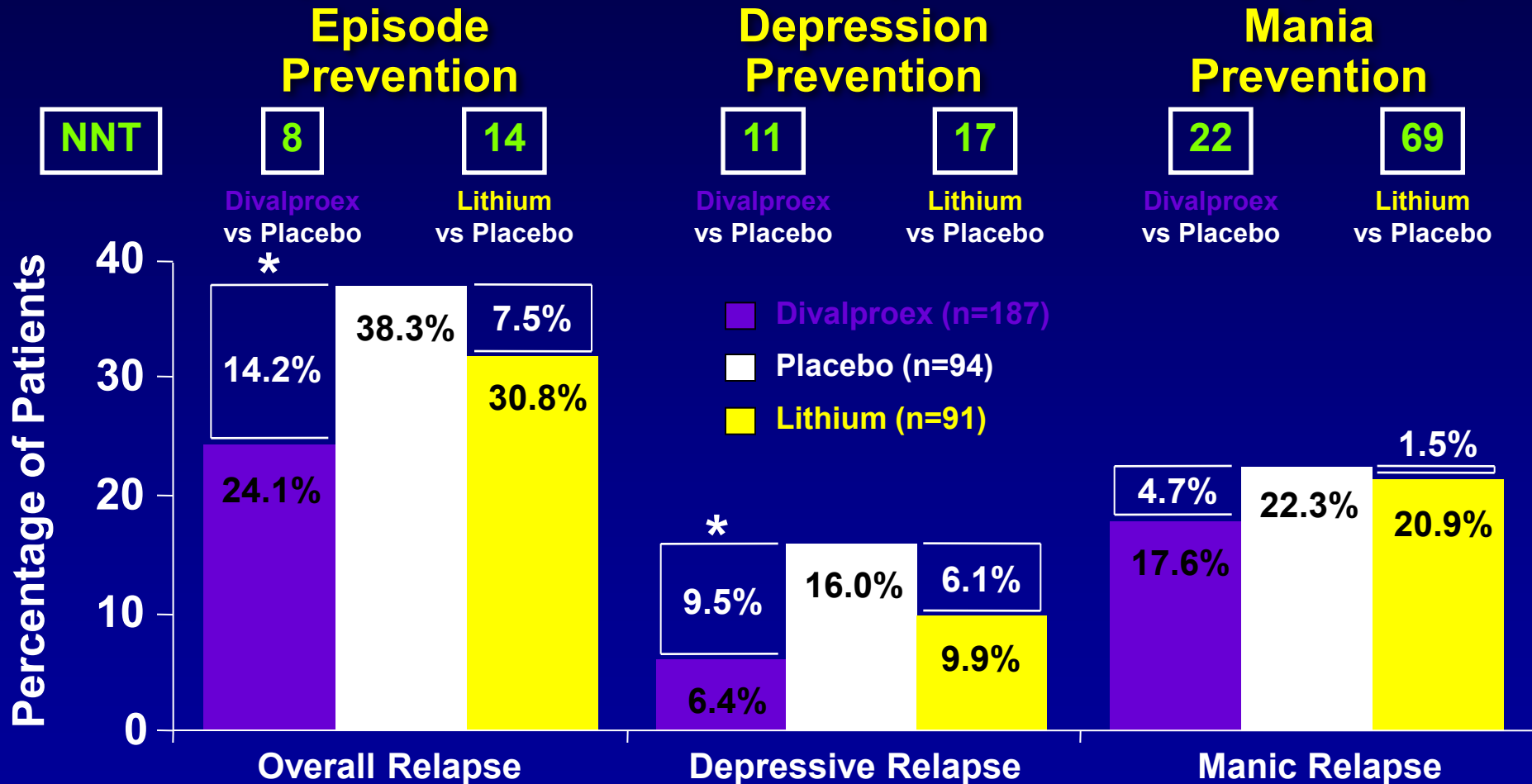


Goodwin et al. J Clin Psychiatry 2004;65:432-41. *p<.05, **p < 0.01, ****p < 0.0001 vs PBO.

Lithium (but not lamotrigine) compared to placebo yielded more AE discontinuation.

12-Month Double-Blind Divalproex Monotherapy vs Lithium Monotherapy vs Placebo Maintenance

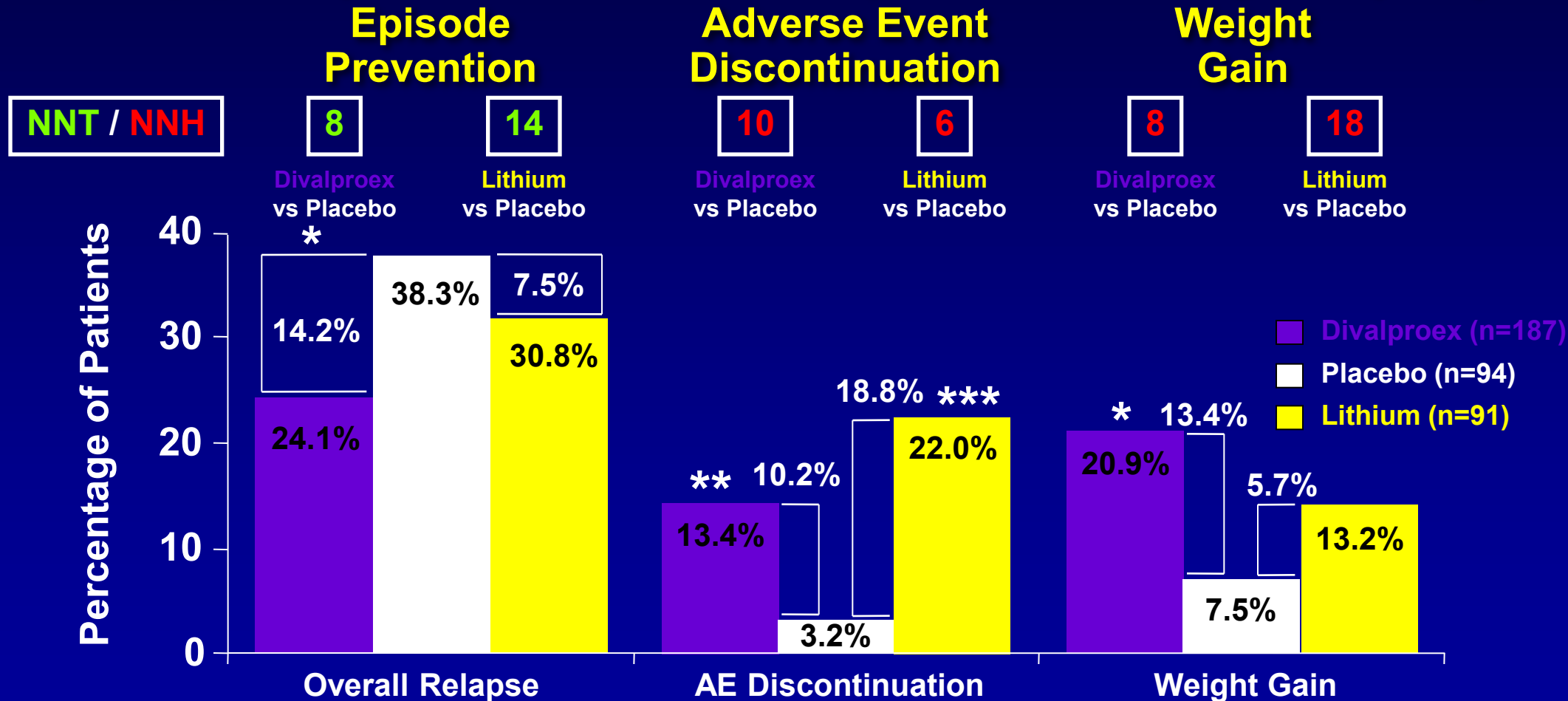
Divalproex Compared to Lithium/Placebo After Manic/Mixed Episodes
DVPX, Li, PBO Equivalent on 1^o Outcome Measure (time to recurrence of any mood episode)



Divalproex (but not lithium) compared to placebo yielded less overall and depressive relapse/recurrence.

12-Month Double-Blind Divalproex Monotherapy vs Lithium Monotherapy vs Placebo Maintenance

Divalproex Compared to Lithium/Placebo After Manic/Mixed Episodes
DVPX, Li, PBO Equivalent on 1^o Outcome Measure (time to recurrence of any mood episode)



Stabilized on open treatment for 2 consecutive visits at least 6 days apart. *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001 vs PBO.

Divalproex and lithium yielded more AE discontinuation. Divalproex yielded more weight gain.

24-Month Double-Blind Quetiapine Monotherapy vs Lithium Monotherapy vs Placebo Maintenance

Compared to Placebo After Manic/Mixed/Depressed Episodes

Episode
Prevention

Depression
Prevention

Mania
Prevention

NNT

4

4

9

14

6

6

Quetiapine
vs Placebo

Lithium
vs Placebo

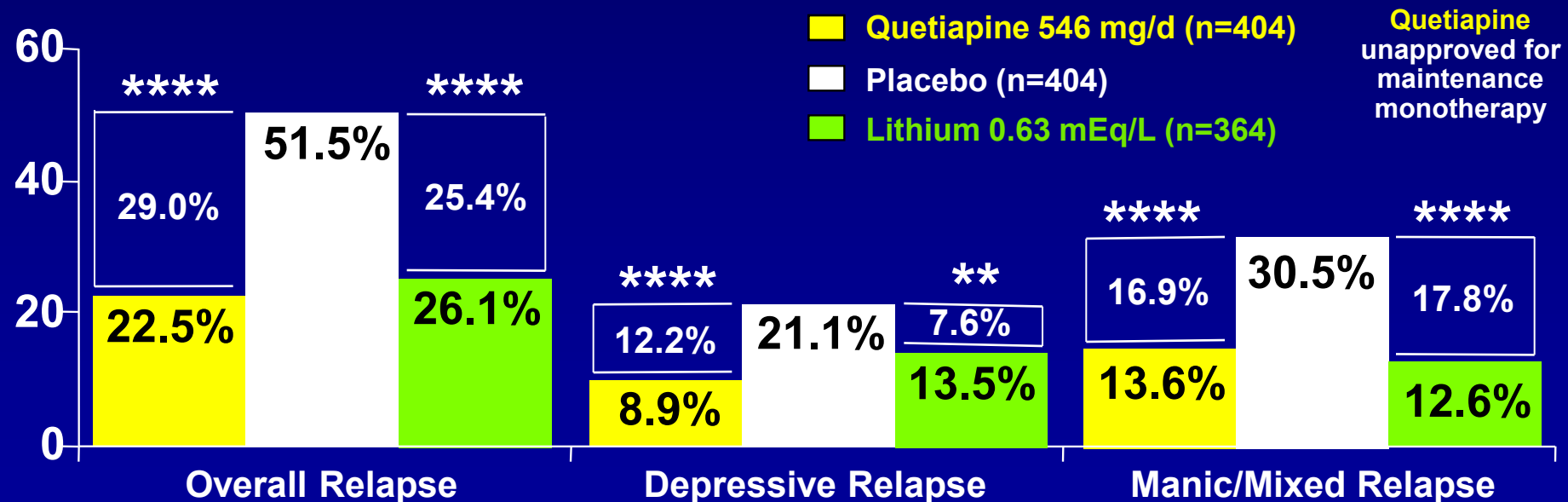
Quetiapine
vs Placebo

Lithium
vs Placebo

Quetiapine
vs Placebo

Lithium
vs Placebo

Percentage of Patients
With intervention



Weisler RH, et al. J Clin Psychiatry 2011;72:1452-64. **p < 0.01, ****p < 0.0001 vs PBO.

Quetiapine and lithium compared to placebo yielded less relapse/recurrence.

24-Month Double-Blind Quetiapine Monotherapy vs Lithium Monotherapy vs Placebo Maintenance

Compared to Placebo After Manic/Mixed/Depressed Episodes

Episode
Prevention

Somnolence

Weight
Gain

NNT / NNH

4

4

40

-63

13

36

Quetiapine
vs Placebo

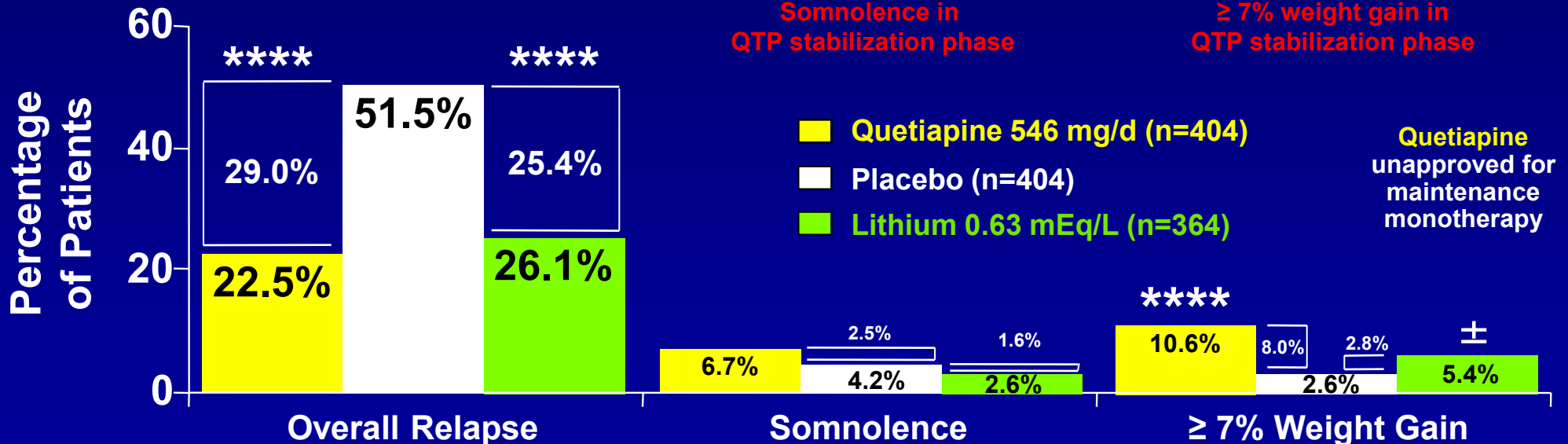
Lithium
vs Placebo

Quetiapine
vs Placebo

Lithium
vs Placebo

Quetiapine
vs Placebo

Lithium
vs Placebo

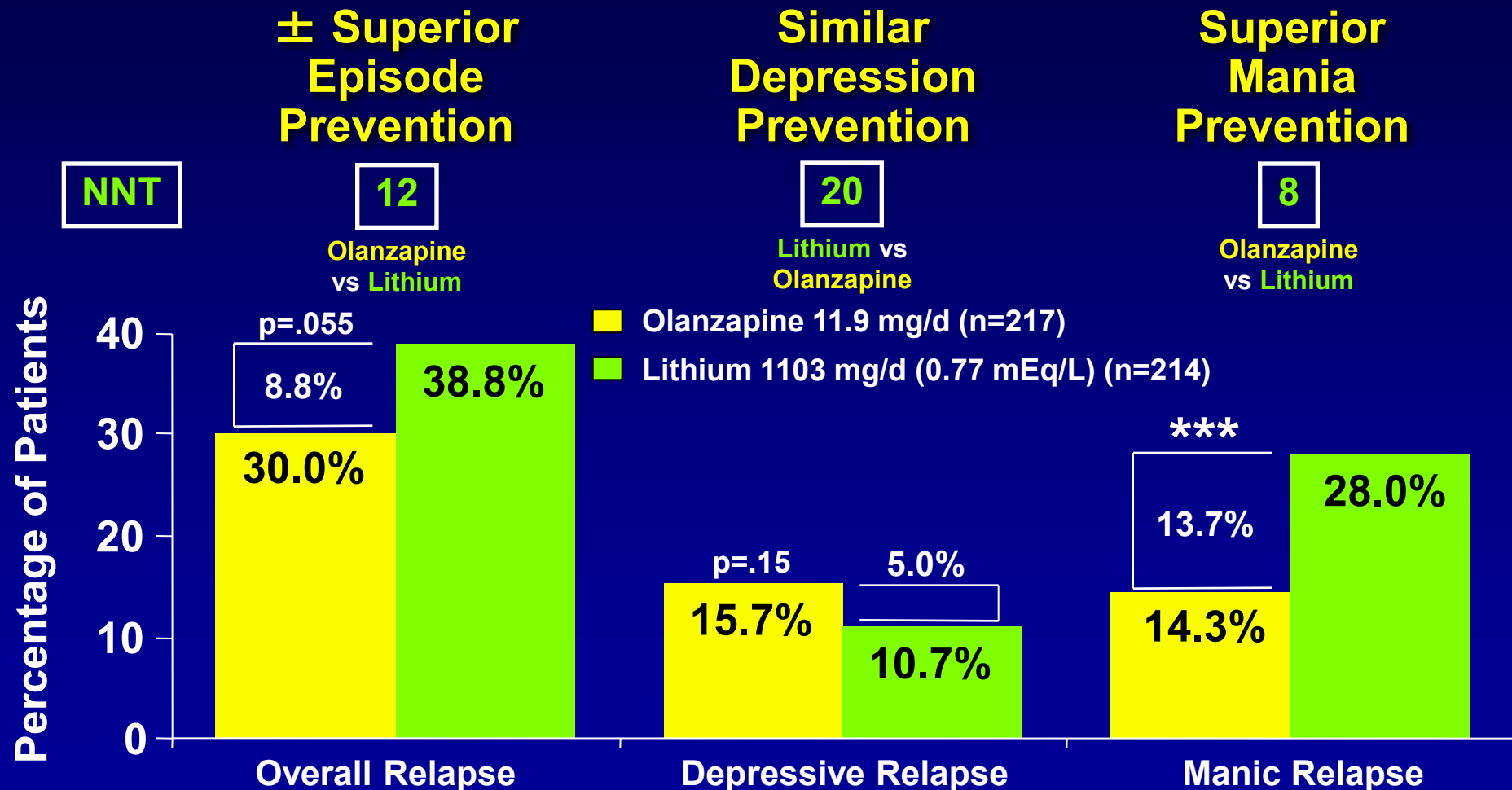


Weisler RH, et al. J Clin Psychiatry 2011;72:1452-64. ±p < 0.10, *p < 0.05, ****p < 0.0001 vs PBO.

Quetiapine and lithium compared to placebo yielded less relapse/recurrence.

12-Month Double-Blind Olanzapine vs Lithium Maintenance Monotherapy

Olanzapine Compared to Lithium After Manic/Mixed Episodes

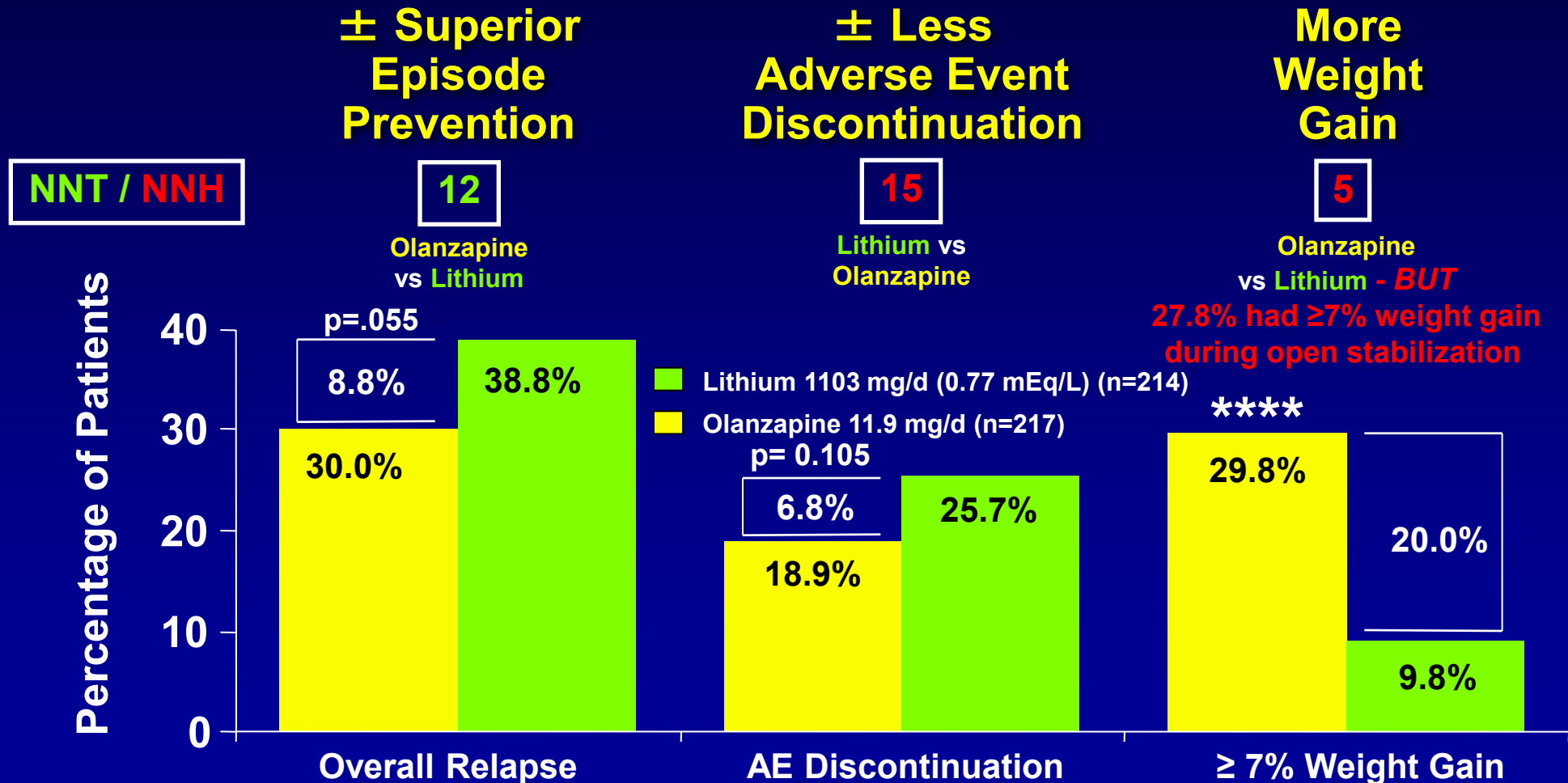


Stabilized on open OLZ+Li before randomization (mean 20.2 days). Relapse criteria - YMRS or HAMD-21 ≥ 15 .

Olanzapine compared to lithium yielded less manic relapse/recurrence.

12-Month Double-Blind Olanzapine vs Lithium Maintenance Monotherapy

Olanzapine Compared to Lithium After Manic/Mixed Episodes

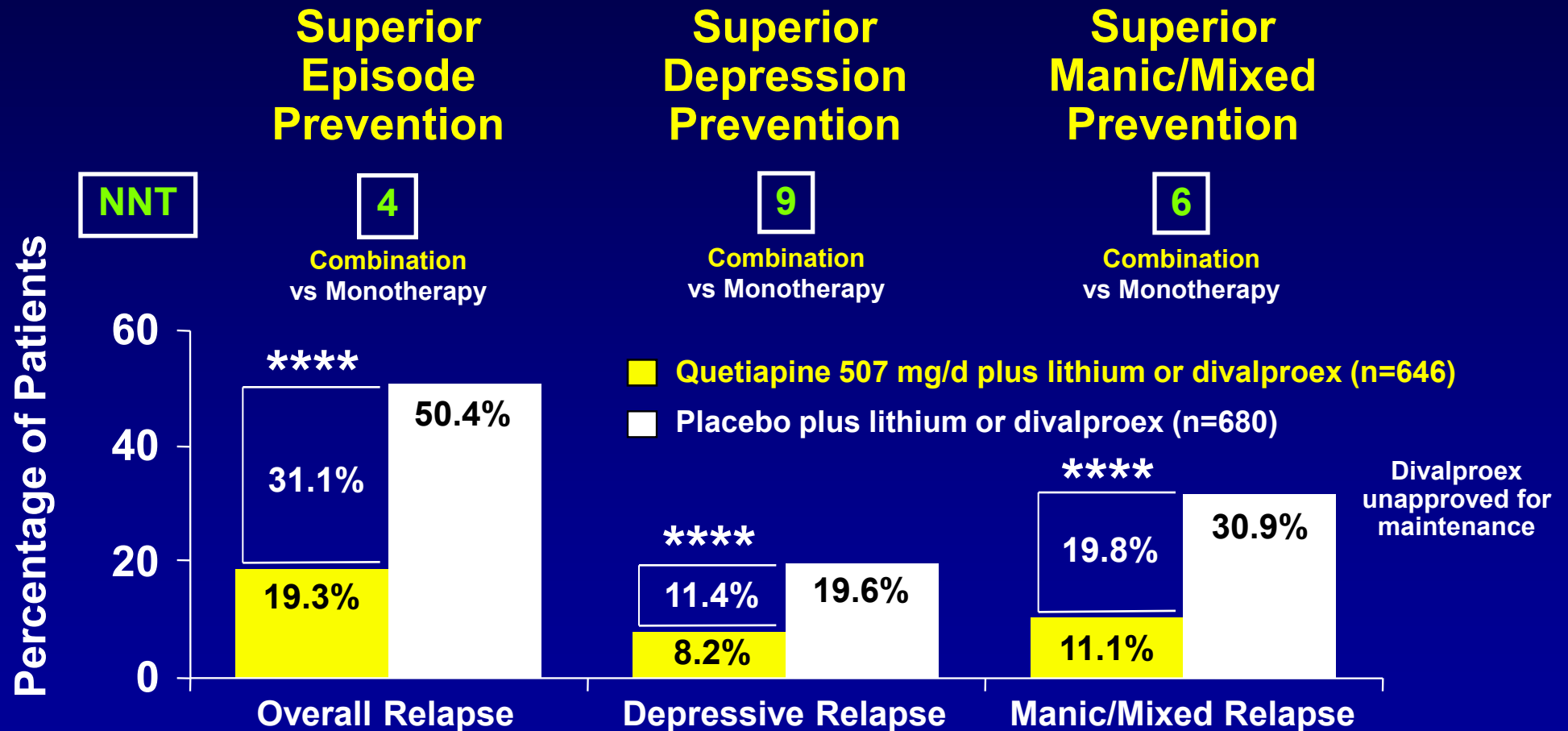


Stabilized on open OLZ+Li before randomization (mean 20.2 days). Relapse criteria - YMRS or HAMD-21 ≥ 15.

Olanzapine compared to lithium yielded ± less AE discontinuation, more weight gain.

24-Month Quetiapine vs Placebo Added to Lithium or Divalproex Bipolar I Maintenance

After Manic, Mixed, or Depressed Episodes



Patients stable ≥ 12 weeks on quetiapine + lithium or divalproex.

Mean duration of randomized treatment: quetiapine = 213 days; placebo = 153 days. ****p < 0.0001 vs PBO.

Combination compared to monotherapy yielded less overall, depressive, and manic relapse.

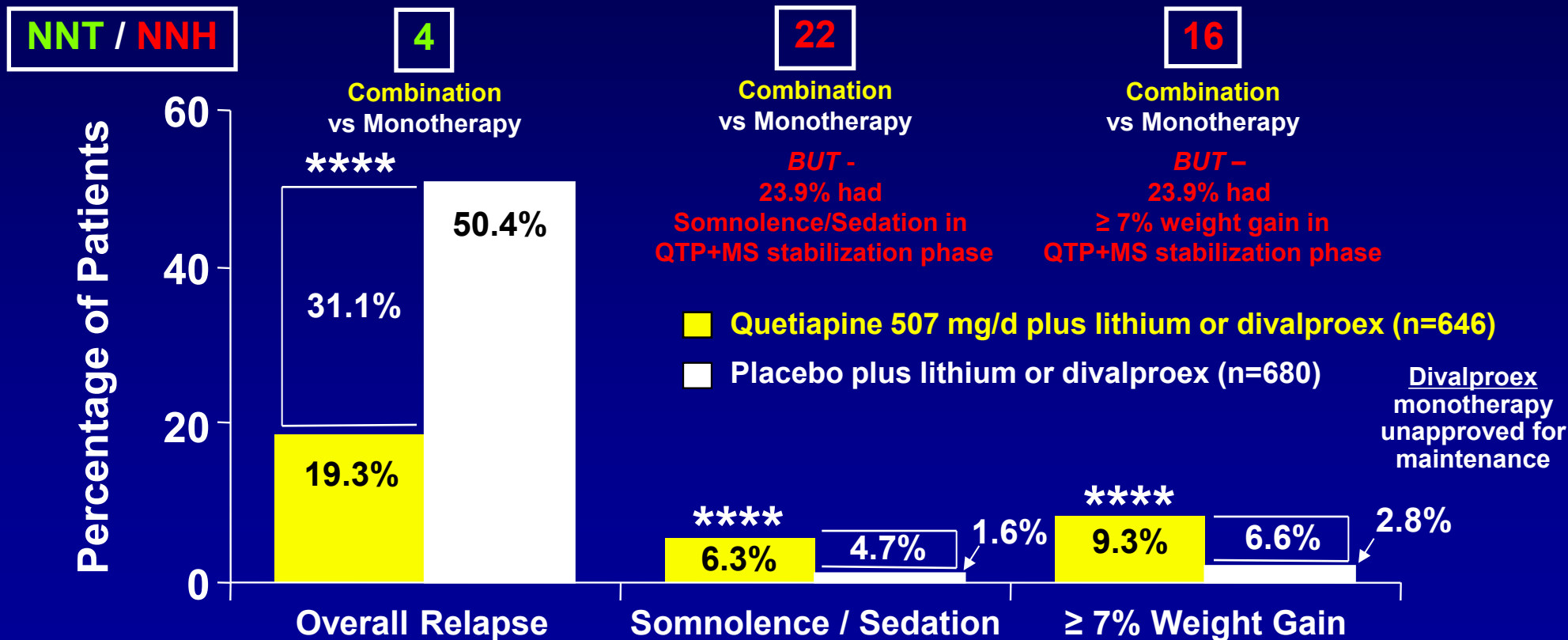
24-Month Quetiapine vs Placebo Added to Lithium or Divalproex Bipolar I Maintenance

After Manic, Mixed, or Depressed Episodes

Episode
Prevention

Somnolence (Vieta 08) /
Sedation (Suppes 09)

Weight
Gain



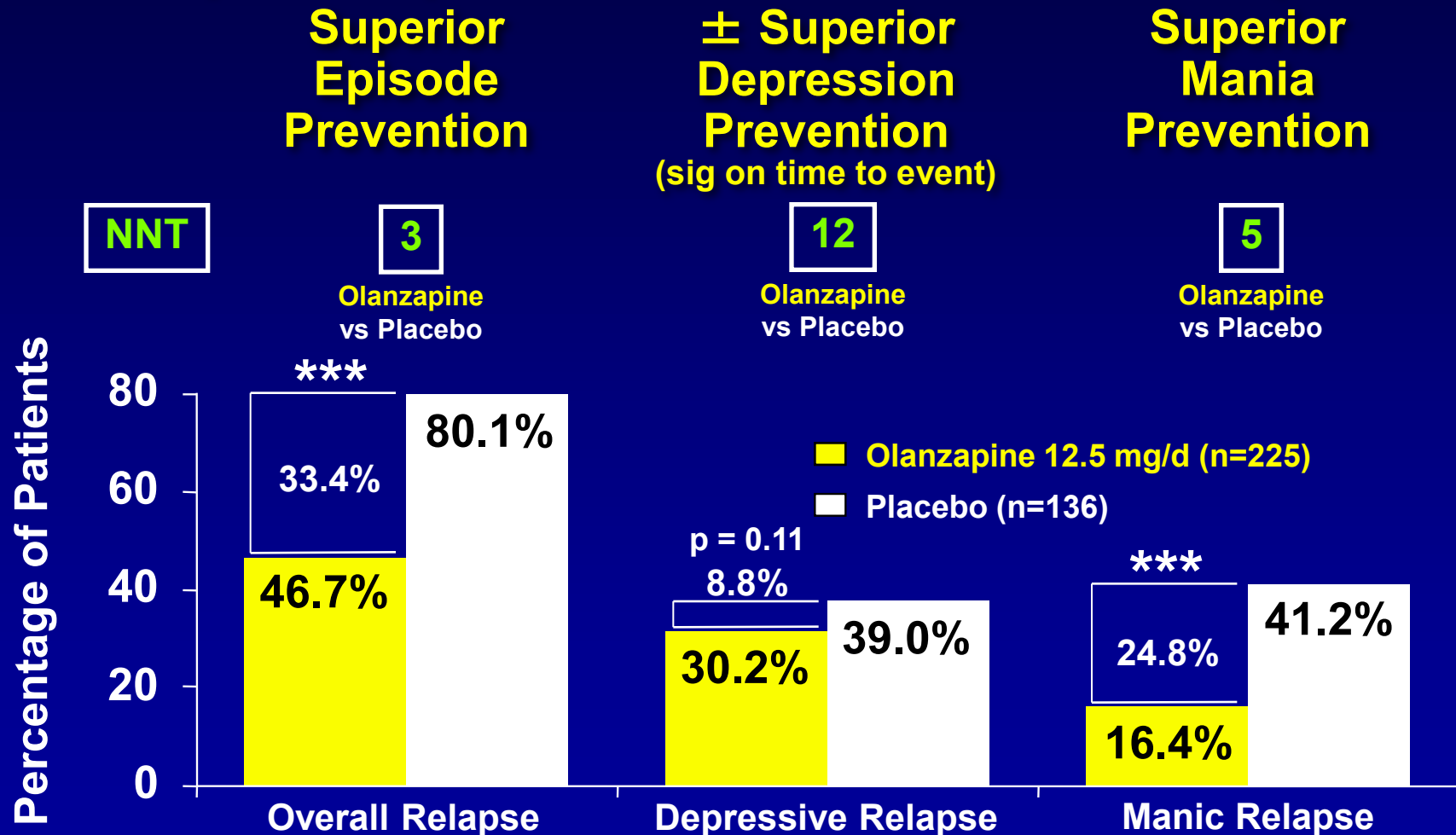
Patients stable ≥ 12 weeks on quetiapine + lithium or divalproex.

Mean duration of randomized treatment: quetiapine = 213 days; placebo = 153 days. ****p < 0.0001 vs PBO.

Combination compared to monotherapy yielded less relapse, more sedation and weight gain.

12-Month Double-Blind Olanzapine Monotherapy vs Placebo Maintenance

Olanzapine Compared to Placebo After Manic/Mixed Episodes



Stabilized on OLZ before randomization (mean 16.3 days). Relapse criteria - hospitalized or YMRS or HAMD-21 ≥ 15 .

Olanzapine compared to placebo yielded less overall and manic relapse/recurrence.

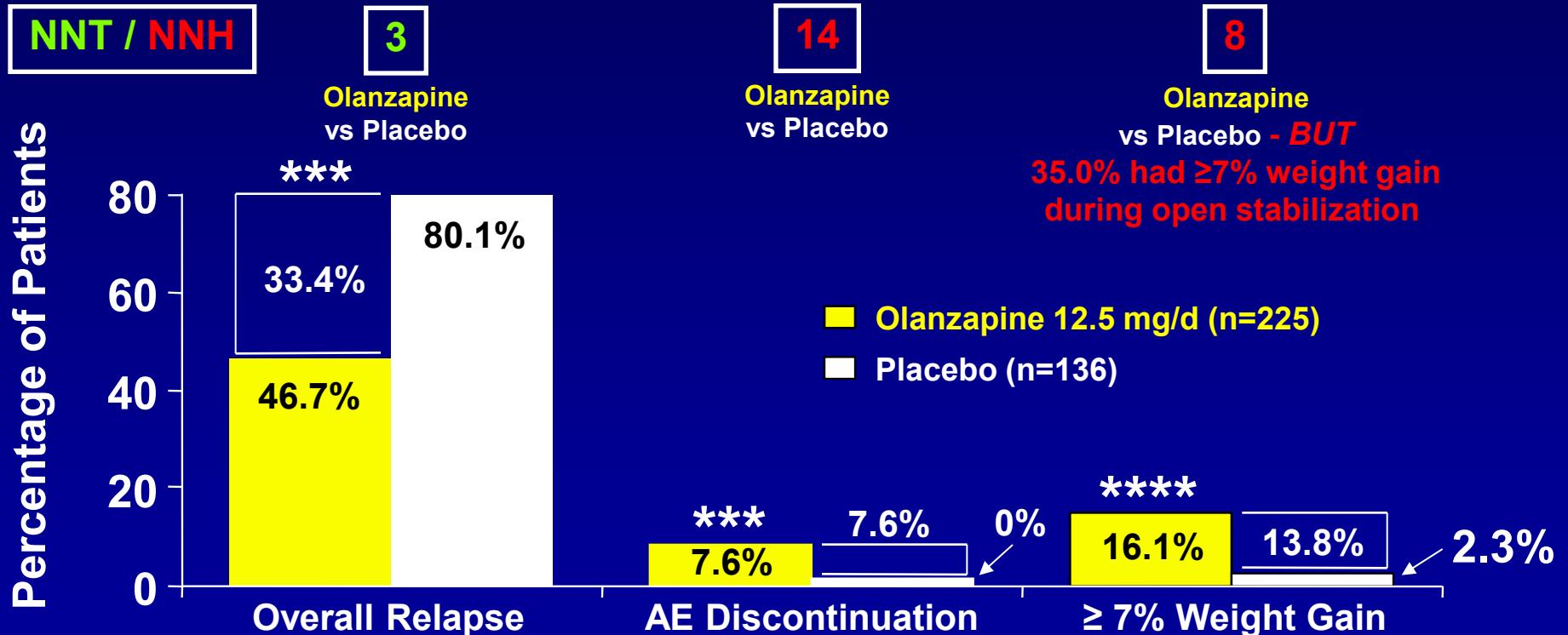
12-Month Double-Blind Olanzapine Monotherapy vs Placebo Maintenance

Olanzapine Compared to Placebo After Manic/Mixed Episodes

Superior
Episode
Prevention

More
Adverse Event
Discontinuation

More
Weight
Gain



Stabilized on OLZ before randomization (mean 16.3 days). Relapse criteria - hospitalized or YMRS or HAMD-21 ≥ 15.

Olanzapine compared to placebo yielded more AE discontinuation and weight gain.

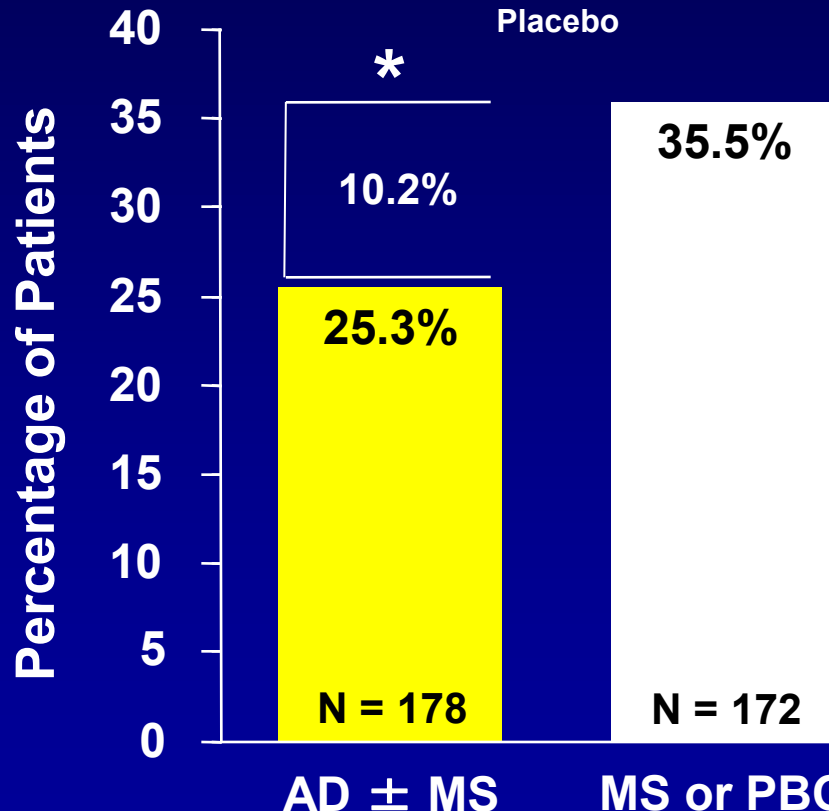
Meta-Analysis of Antidepressants in Bipolar Maintenance

Depressive Relapse Rates

NNT

10

Antidepressant
vs
Placebo

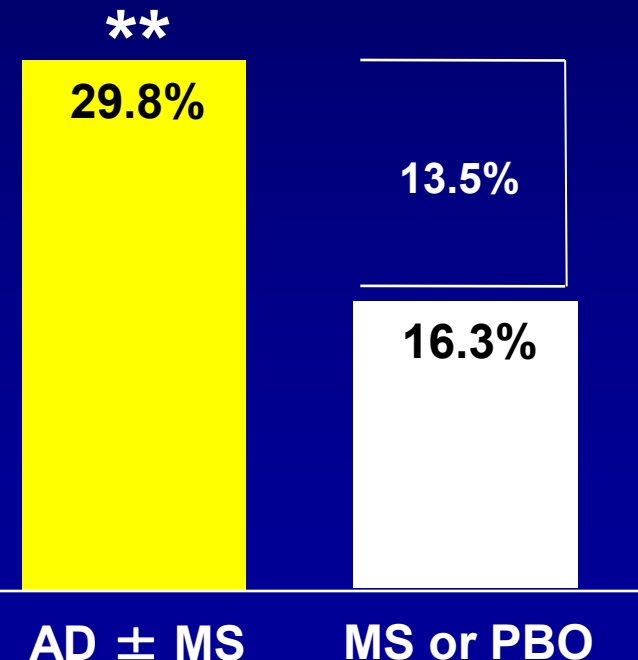


Manic Relapse Rates

NNH

8

Antidepressant
vs
Placebo

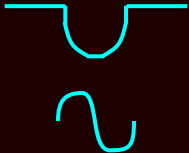
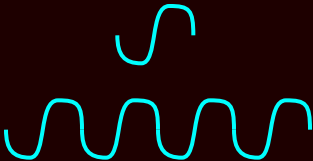


Patients with BPI, BPII, or BPNOS. AD = Antidepressant; MS = Mood Stabilizer; PBO = Placebo.

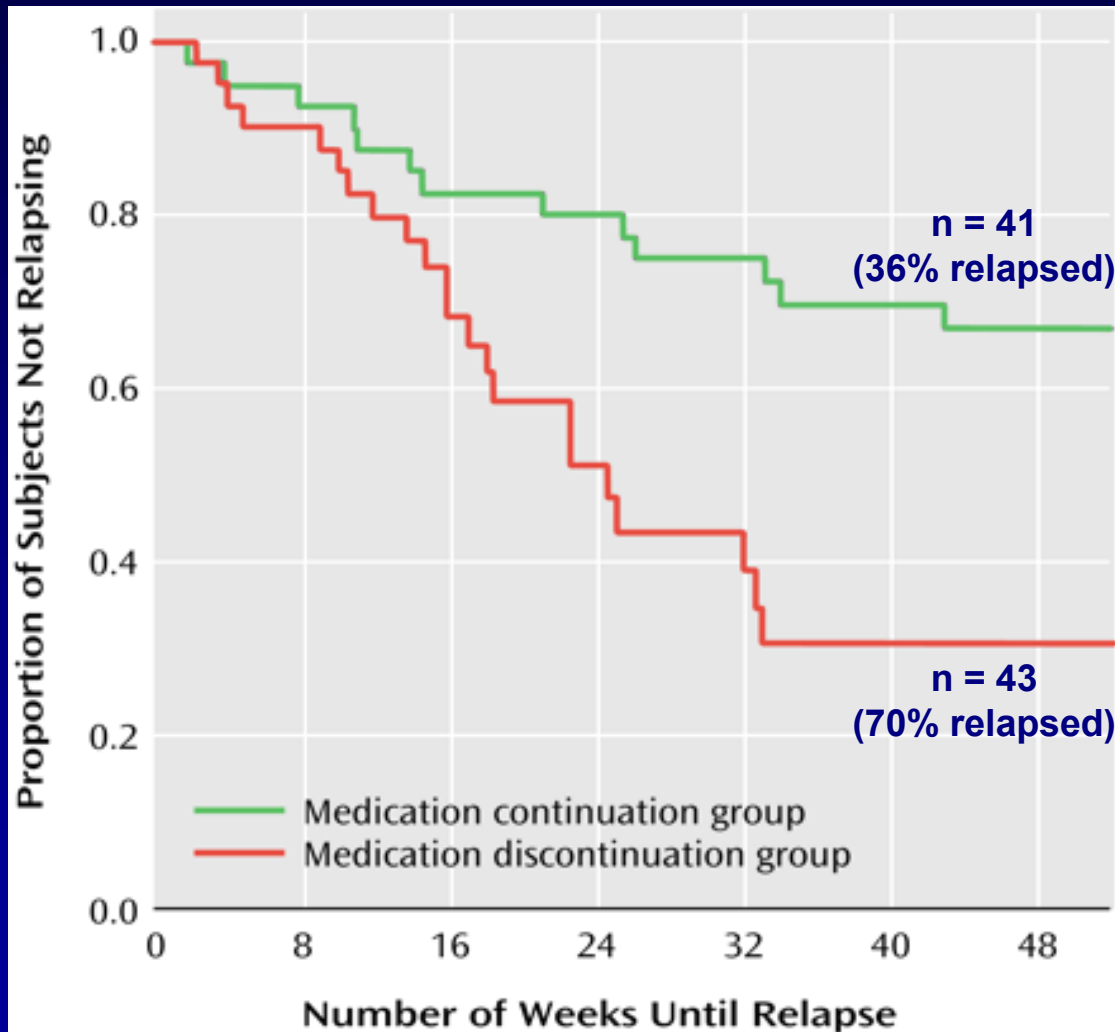
*p < 0.05, **p < 0.01 vs. PBO.

Adapted from Ghaemi SN, et al. Acta Psychiatr Scand 2008;118(5):1-10.

Antidepressants After Depression Resolution

Disorder / Episode Pattern		Begin Taper	Comments
Unipolar		6–12 months	Maintenance if ≥ 3 episodes
Bipolar Monophasic Biphasic - MDE		6–12 weeks	Repeat if relapse Maintenance if repeated relapses
Bipolar Biphasic - DME Polyphasic Hx rapid cycling Hx iatrogenic mania		6–12 days	Start taper after first euthymic visit

Antidepressant Continuation Beneficial in Some (15%?) Patients



**Prospective 1-year follow-up
Remission of MDE with AD
added to mood stabilizer**

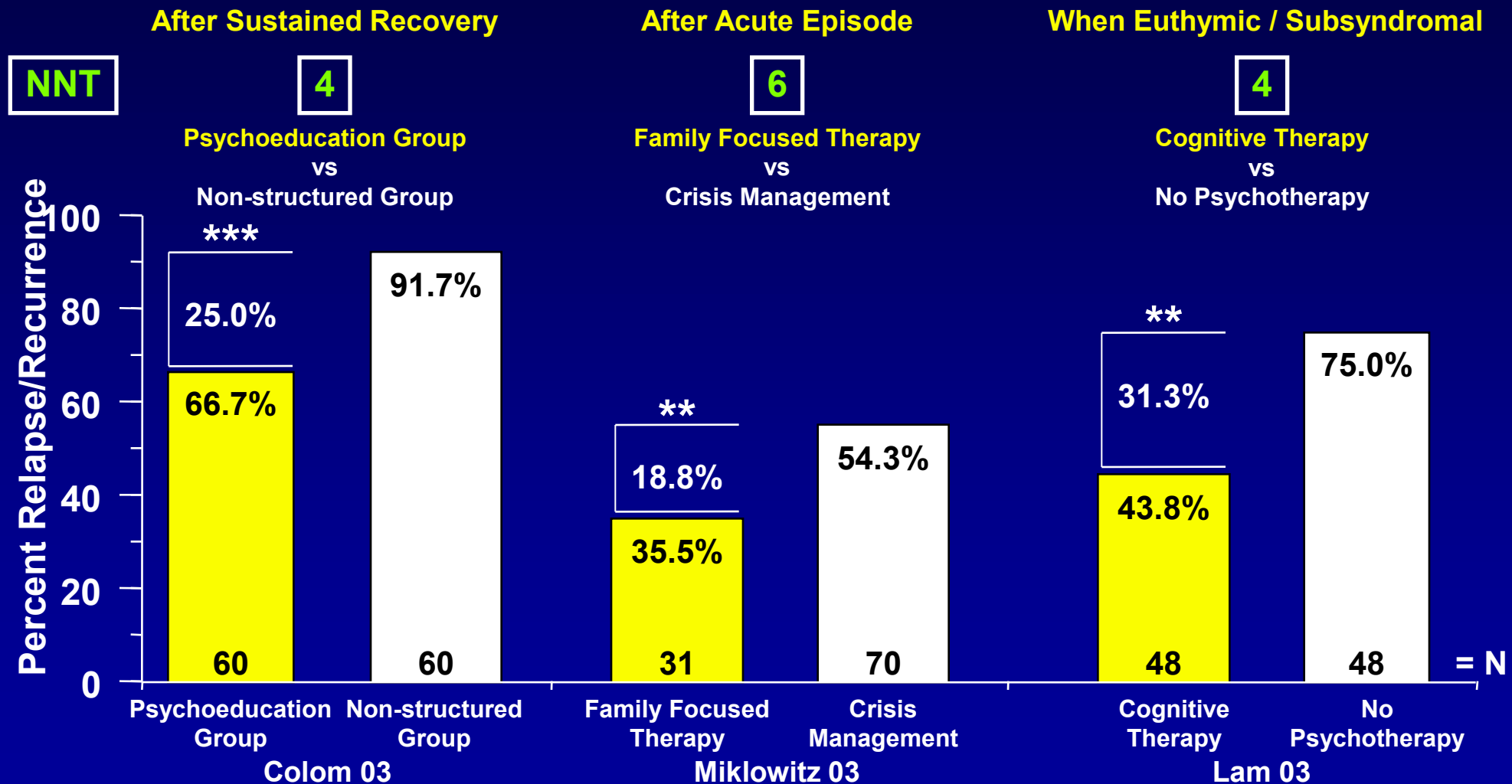
Tolerated AD ≥ 2 months

**Continuation: AD > 6 months
Discontinuation: AD < 6 months**

Overview of Adjunctive Psychosocial Maintenance Studies

Numbers Needed to Treat for Relapse/Recurrence Prevention, Rates

Contemporary Manualized Intensive Psychotherapy Studies



Psychosocial interventions had single-digit NNTs, comparable to approved pharmacotherapies.

Treatment of Bipolar Depression

- **Acute treatment**
 - Lurasidone, quetiapine, olanzapine plus fluoxetine
 - Lithium, lamotrigine
 - Adjunctive antidepressants
 - Alternative treatments
 - Adjunctive psychotherapy
- **Maintenance treatment**
 - Lithium, lamotrigine, divalproex
 - Atypical antipsychotics
 - Adjunctive antidepressants (controversial)
 - Adjunctive psychotherapy
- **New treatment options emerging**

Post-Lecture Exam

Question 1

1. The most pervasive symptoms in bipolar disorder are those of: (choose one)

A. Mania, hypomania

B. Hypomania

C. Depression

D. Mixed States

E. None of the above

Question 2

Which of the treatments below is the LEAST appropriate strategy in bipolar depression: (choose one)

- A. Mood stabilizer without antidepressant**
- B. Mood stabilizer with antidepressant**
- C. Atypical antipsychotic with antidepressant**
- D. Antidepressant with neither mood stabilizer nor atypical antipsychotic**

Question 3

Which antidepressant option carries the greatest risk of hypomania/mania: (choose one)

- A. Tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs)**
- B. Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)**
- C. Mirtazapine**
- D. Bupropion**

Question 4

Which of the following treatments do NOT have controlled data suggesting utility in bipolar depression: (choose one)

- A. Lithium**
- B. Lamotrigine**
- C. Olanzapine plus fluoxetine combination**
- D. Quetiapine**
- E. Citalopram**
- F. Lurasidone**

Question 5

Which of the following statements best describes the role of maintenance adjunctive antidepressants in patients with bipolar disorder: (choose one)

- A. Long-term adjunctive antidepressants are always beneficial.**
- B. Long-term adjunctive antidepressants are never beneficial.**
- C. Long-term adjunctive antidepressants are beneficial in most patients.**
- D. Long-term adjunctive antidepressants may be beneficial in some patients.**

Answers to Pre & Post Competency Exam

1. C

2. D

3. A

4. E

5. D