

Newsletter from Emotra AB (publ)

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Emotra: New focus areas and more research collaborations

Emotra AB (“Emotra”) has had an eventful spring. New data which show that EDOR® can identify patients with an increased risk of depressive relapse are turning out to be more and more important. Emotra is now increasingly engaged in discussions with psychiatric research centres concerning collaborations to verify these findings and identify new application areas for our method. We have submitted a patent application to protect our application in this new indication area.

7% of all men and 13% of all women in Sweden were prescribed antidepressants at some time last year. This is a growing trend in more and more European countries, where one tenth of the population now use antidepressants. A contributing factor in this development is that many people are treated for longer periods, since they have suffered more than one relapse. As a rule, 50% of patients who stop taking antidepressants after their first episode will relapse, and the proportion among this group continues to grow with their next attempt to cease taking their medication. This is a very common clinical psychiatric problem that both physicians and patients face on a daily basis.

One of the main problems with relapses is the lack of objective diagnostic markers and tests that can provide guidance for decisions about measures to be taken in clinical treatment of patients. Previous relapses are used as indicators, but better clinical tools are needed if we want to obtain an indication of increased risk as early as the treatment of a patient’s first depressive episode. Considering how many people suffer recurring depressions, improved diagnostics can save society a lot of money while at the same time providing patients with better and safer care.

Safety is an important incentive since this same patient group, depressed hyporeactive patients, has previously been shown to run an increased risk of attempting and committing suicide. This means that the EDOR-test can be used as a tool in the treatment of depression and to decrease the risk of both relapses and suicide attempts at an earlier stage in patient care. Emotra’s goal is to verify these first study findings through blind studies. Fulfilling this goal will broaden the application area for EDOR and increase our collaboration opportunities. We are establishing new contacts and negotiations are ongoing. Worth noting is the fact that the problem with relapses is a vast scientific area with several ongoing research programs that focus on new methods such as EDOR.

For a long time, Lars-Håkan Thorell, the inventor of EDOR, has stated that disorders in the cerebral area known as the hippocampus, which is important for learning, forming memories, and the way we react to events in our surroundings, is linked to hyporeactivity. Various research studies have demonstrated changes in this area of the brain in patients with specific mental health problems and in patients that have committed suicide. In other words, there are strong reasons to continue investigating the importance of hyporeactivity and this opens promising opportunities for a wider use of Emotra’s method.

During the period, the company submitted yet another patent application, “*A device and a method to identify persons at risk for depressive relapse*”, to PRV, the Swedish Patent Office. This patent application is the first of many applications to protect this new indication area.

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