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(54) Title: METHODS FOR REDUCING THE SIDE EFFECTS ASSOCIATED WITH MIRTAZAPINE TREATMENT

(57) Abstract: Compositions, and methods of use thereof, are provided for the prevention or treatment of side effects associated with the use of drugs that act as 5HT₂/5HT₃ serotonin receptor antagonists and alpha-2 adrenergic receptor antagonists (5HT₂/5HT₃ antagonist/alpha-2 antagonist). The method involves using dopamine-releasing compounds, such as amantadine, anticonvulsants, such as zonisamide, or dopamine/norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors, such as bupropion, in combination with 5HT₂/5HT₃ antagonist/alpha-2 antagonists, such as mirtazapine, to reduce the excessive daytime drowsiness and/or weight gain associated with 5HT₂/5HT₃ antagonist/alpha-2 antagonist use for the treatment of disorders, such as, depression, schizophrenia, anxiety disorders, sleep-related breathing disorders, insomnia, migraine headache, chronic tension-type headache, hot flashes, lower back pain, neuropathic pain and functional somatic syndromes. Formulations of dopamine-releasing compounds or anticonvulsants with 5HT₂/5HT₃ antagonist/alpha-2 antagonists are provided. In particular embodiments, combination therapy with mirtazapine and zonisamide provides relief from chronic low back pain, while reducing or avoiding side effects associated with monotherapy with mirtazapine or zonisamide.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

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USPC: 514/214.02,220,259,288,324,325,396,397

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,281,207 B1 (RICHTER et al) 28 August 2001 (28.08.2001), see entire document, particularly, columns 3-4, Examples.	1-55
A	US 6,420,351 B1 (TSAI et al) 16 July 2002 (16.07.2002), abstract, column 1, lines 11-50.	1-55



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"O"	document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
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