

Department of Neuropsychopharmacology

Toward the implementation of evidence-based practices

Our department carries out research into problems concerning the various mental disorders. Especially, depression and anxiety disorders and are focused in the department. The department conducts clinical, psychopharmacological and epidemiological researches, and also endeavors to develop evidence-based interventions.

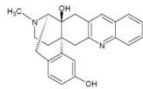
Depression/Anxiety Research

Elucidating the pathological mechanism of mood and anxiety disorders, and develop novel pharmacotherapies and diagnostic methods. Research can change the future!



Delta opioid receptor agonist

Recently, we have demonstrated that the novel delta opioid receptor agonist KNT-127 produces distinct anxiolytic-like effects in rats, without producing the adverse effects associated with benzodiazepines. We propose that delta opioid receptor agonists would be good candidates for future development of anxiolytic drugs.



Psychopharmacology Research

Almost all existing antidepressants have been developed based on the monoaminergic deficit hypothesis of depression, which was proposed in the 1950s. These antidepressants immediately increase synaptic concentrations of norepinephrine and/or serotonin. However, a latency period of several weeks generally elapses before therapeutic effects of antidepressants are observed. This discrepancy implies that mechanisms beyond the monoaminergic systems are involved in the treatment of depression.



Clinical Research

SUN☺D Project

SUN☺D study is an assessor-blinded, parallel-group, multi-center randomized controlled megatrial (n=2,000 in 46 clinics) to establish the optimum 1st line and 2nd line antidepressant treatment strategy among adult patients with a non-psychotic unipolar major depressive episode. ClinicalTrials.gov NCT01109693



FLATT Project

The objective of FLATT study is to determine if smartphone CBT app can augment antidepressant pharmacotherapy in patients with refractory depression. The smartphone app included sessions on self-monitoring, behavioral activation and cognitive restructuring presented by cartoon characters. FLATT study is a multi-site, outcome assessor-masked randomized trial, that was conducted in 20 psychiatric clinics and hospitals in Japan. UMIN CTR 000013693



ACTION-J



Effectiveness of assertive case management for suicide attempters: a prospective parallel group randomised controlled multicentre trial (n=914 in 17 hospitals). It is demonstrated that assertive case management was effective for up to 6 months. ClinicalTrials.gov NCT00736918

