

## 주요 우울증 환자에서의 Mirtazapine의 항우울 효과

이홍식<sup>1</sup> · 서호석<sup>1</sup> · 김찬형<sup>1</sup> · 김광수<sup>2</sup> · 채정호<sup>2</sup> · 오강섭<sup>3</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>가 <sup>2</sup> <sup>3</sup>

### ABSTRACT

#### Antidepressant Effects of Mirtazapine in Patients with Major Depression

Hong-Shick Lee, MD,<sup>1</sup> Ho-Suk Suh, MD,<sup>1</sup> Chan-Hyung Kim, MD,<sup>1</sup>  
 Kwang-Soo Kim, MD,<sup>2</sup> Jeong-Ho Chae, MD<sup>2</sup> and Kang-Seob Oh, MD<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Yonsei University, College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea

<sup>2</sup>Department of Neuropsychiatry, The Catholic University of Korea, College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea

<sup>3</sup>Department of Psychiatry, Sungkyunkwan University, School of Medicine, Seoul, Korea

**Objective :** Mirtazapine is a newly introduced antidepressant in Korea. The purpose of this study is to evaluate effectiveness and safety of mirtazapine as an antidepressant for the first time in Korean patients with major depression. **Methods :** This study is an open, non-comparative, multicenter study treated with mirtazapine for 6 weeks in patients with DSM- diagnosis of major depression who have 17-item HAMD score 18 and who are between 18 and 65 years of age. Mirtazapine was administered 30 mg orally as an initial dose and could be increased to 45 mg from the 14th day of treatment, depending on the therapeutic responses of subjects. The clinical efficacy of mirtazapine was assessed at the baseline and at the 1st, 2nd, 4th, and 6th week of treatment. To assess the clinical efficacy of the drug, well-trained psychiatrists have evaluated subjects using 17-item HAMD and CGI on each evaluation periods. Also, for the evaluation of subjective symptoms of patients, BDI was used. Adverse experiences associated with mirtazapine were evaluated on each visit, with recordings of blood pressure, heart rate and weight. The responders were defined as patients with 50% decrease from baseline in total 17-item HAMD scores and remitted patients with a total 17-item HAMD score of 7. **Results :** Out of 79 subjects enrolled, 45 were completed this study. After 6 weeks, the score of 17-item HAMD, CGI and BDI demonstrated statistically significant decrease compared with at the baseline. This decrease was observed as early as the 1st week of mirtazapine treatment. Moreover, the meaningful reduction in each total scores of these different parameters on each evaluation period could be detected, except in case of 2-4 week and 4-6 week of BDI. The responder rate was 15.6% at the first week of mirtazapine treatment, 88.9% at the 6th week. The rate of remission was 2.2% at the first week and 60.0% at the 6th week. The most frequent adverse events during 6 weeks were somnolence (31.6%), drowsiness (19%) and weight gain (17.7%). Aside from sedation and weight gain, anticholinergic, cardiovascular and stimulating side effects are less than 10%, and no one complained about sexual dysfunction. The dropouts (34 subjects, 43%) were caused by adverse events (38.2%), insufficient compliance (35.3%) and uncooperation with the study (20.6%). **Conclusion :** Mirtazapine has shown to have superior antidepressant effect in this study. Especially, this effect appeared from the early

2000

15

: , 135 - 270

146 - 92

: (02) 3497 - 3340 · : (02) 3462 - 4304

E - mail : hslee96@yumc.yonsei.ac.kr

treatment phase, the 1st week of treatment. The most frequent adverse events reported were somnolence, drowsiness and weight gain. Anticholinergic, cardiovascular, stimulating adverse events as well as sexual dysfunction were rarely reported, and there was no clinical significant change on physical examinations. Therefore this study showed that mirtazapine is a superior and safe antidepressant in patients with major depression. (Korean J Psychopharmacol 2000;11(2):126-135)

**KEY WORDS** : Major depression · New antidepressant · Mirtazapine · Antidepressant effect · Adverse events.

서론

(major depression)

4.4 19.6%

(efficacy) SSRI 가

(tricyclic antidepressants, TCA) TCA

가

9)

TCA

70% 가

가

muscarinic, cholinergic,  $\alpha_1$ -adrenergic,  $H_1$ -histaminergic

3,4)

TCA

etine

floxetine (serotonin-specific reuptake inhibitors, SSRI)가

가 5,6) SSRI

TCA

가

7,8)

가

5-HT<sub>1A</sub>

가

12)

mirtazapine 1994

Organon, 1996

FDA

SSRI가 TCA

가

TCA

가

가

Na-SSA (noradrenergic and specific serotonergic antidepressant) mirtazapine 10,11)

mirtazapine 2-autoreceptor

가

2-heteroreceptor

가

가

5-HT<sub>2</sub>

가

5-HT<sub>3</sub>

Mirtazapine

1999  
 가 , mirtazapine  
 가  
 가 25% , 3) DSM -  
 mirta - , 4)  
 zapine , 5) 6  
 , 6)  
 대상 및 방법 , , , ,  
 , 7)  
 1. 연구대상 가  
 , 8) 30 가  
 , 9) mirtazapine 3  
 MAO , 10) 3  
 , 11) 2  
 1  
 , 12) 2  
 , mirtazapine 2  
 가

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of completers (N = 45)

Characteristic	Number (%)
Age†	41.2 ( ± 13.2)
Gender	
Male	16 (35.6)
Female	29 (64.4)
Previous history of depression	24 (53.3)
Previous onset age of depression†	36.1 ( ± 13.8)
Patients with suicide attempts in the past	4 ( 8.9)
Duration of the present episode	
<1 month	11 (24.4)
1 - 6 months	23 (51.1)
>7 months	11 (24.5)
Patients hospitalized at baseline	16 (35.6)
Severity of symptoms	
Mild	3 ( 6.7)
Moderate	24 (53.3)
Severe without psychotic features	17 (37.8)
Severe with psychotic features	1 ( 2.2)

† Data are means ( ± standard deviations)

2. 연구방법

mirtazapine 6 (open),  
 (non - comparative),  
 가  
 , , 가  
 6  
 mirtazapine 1 30 mg  
 14 45 mg ,  
 , 1  
 , 6

가 lorazepam triazolam  
가 2 alprazolam  
2  
(supportive psychotherapy)  
1, 2, 4, 6  
가  
가 17 item - HAMD, Clinical Global Impression (CGI)  
가 가 Beck Depression Inventory(BDI)<sup>15)</sup>  
adverse experience 가  
6  
17 item - HAMD, HAMD 1 (CGI BDI repeated measures ANOVA Bonferoni 17 item - HAMD / (Anxiety/agitation factor), / (Anxiety/somatization factor), (Sleep disturbance factor) (Melancholia factor) (responders) 17 item - HAMD 가 50% (remitters) 17 item - HAMD 가 7  
FDA  
7%  
가 body mass index(BMI) SPSSWIN

(Statistical Package for the Social Science for Windows) package 9.0  
0.05

## 결 과

### 1. 대상 환자의 특성

79 45  
45 41.2 (± 13.2)  
가 16 (35.6%), 가 29 (64.4%)  
mirtazapine 16  
(35.6%), 가 24  
(53.3%), 가 가 4  
(8.9%), 가 10 (22.2%)  
1  
11 (24.4%), 1 6 23 (51.1%), 7  
11 (24.5%) (mild)가  
3 (6.7%), (moderate)가 24 (53.3%),  
(severe) 18 (40%) (severe with psychotic features) 가 1  
(Table 1).

6 (13.3%)  
2 Mirtazapine  
lorazepam triazolam 11  
(24.4%), alprazolam  
10 (22.2%)  
mirtazapine 2 45 mg  
4 34.1 mg  
34 (43%)  
가 13 (38.2%),  
12 (35.3%), 가 7 (20.6%), 1  
(2.9%), 가 1 (2.9%) (Table 2).

### 2. 항우울 효과

mirtazapine 6 17 item - HAMD, CGI, BDI (p<0.01)  
(Table 3). 17 item - HAMD  
24.9 6 7.1, HAMD 1

Mirtazapine

**Table 2.** Percentages of dropouts (N = 34)

Reason	Number (%)
Adverse events	13 (38.2)
Insufficient compliance	12 (35.3)
Uncooperation	7 (20.6)
Lack of efficacy	1 ( 2.9)
Other	1 ( 2.9)

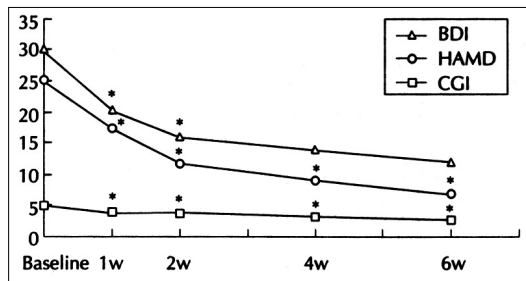
**Table 3.** Mean rating scale scores ( $\pm$ SD) at baseline and after 6 weeks of treatment with mirtazapine in completers (N = 45)\*

	Baseline Mean (SD)	6 week Mean (SD)
17 item-HAMD		
Total	24.9 ( 4.0)	7.1 ( 4.4) †
Item 1 (Depressed mood)	2.5 ( 0.8)	0.7 ( 0.8) †
Anxiety/agitation factor	5.6 ( 1.4)	1.7 ( 1.3) †
Anxiety/somatization factor	8.2 ( 1.7)	2.9 ( 2.1) †
Sleep disturbance factor	3.7 ( 1.5)	0.4 ( 0.7) †
Melancholia factor	10.9 ( 2.3)	3.4 ( 2.1) †
CGI	5.0 ( 0.7)	2.4 ( 0.8) †
BDI	30.1 (10.0)	11.8 (10.6) †

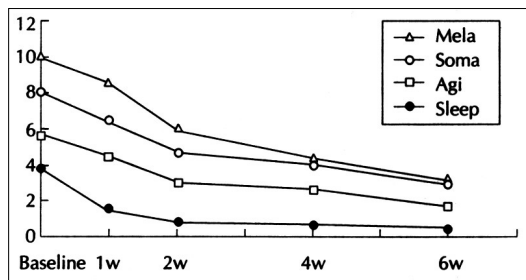
\*Abbreviations : 17 item-HAMD = 17-item Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression, CGI = Clinical Global Impression, BDI = Beck Depression Inventory

† Repeated measure ANOVA, Bonferroni test,  $p < 0.01$

( ) 2.5 6  
0.7, CGI 5.0 6  
2.4 (p<0.01)  
가 BDI 30.1  
6 11.8 (p<0.01)  
1  
, BDI 2 4 , 4 6  
가 17 item - HAMD, CGI, BDI  
(Fig. 1).  
17 item - HAMD mirtazapine  
6 /  
5.6 1.7, / 8.2 2.9,  
3.7 0.4,  
10.9 3.4 (p<0.01)  
. 17 item - HAMD  
1 (Fig. 2).  
17 item - HAMD 가 50%



**Fig. 1.** Interval change of efficacy variables for 6 weeks of treatment with mirtazapine (N = 45). BDI = Total score of Beck Depression Inventory, HAMD = Total score of 17-item Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression, CGI = Total score of Clinical Global Impression. \*Repeated measure ANOVA, Bonferroni test,  $p < 0.01$ .



**Fig. 2.** Interval change of each factors of 17-item Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression for 6 weeks of treatment with mirtazapine (N = 45).

Mela = Melancholia factor, Soma = Anxiety/somatization factor, Agi = Anxiety/agitation factor, Sleep = Sleep disturbance factor.

Repeated measure ANOVA, Bonferroni test,  $p < 0.05$  except Anxiety/agitation factor between week 2 and week 4, sleep disturbance factor between week 2 and week 4, week 4 and week 6.

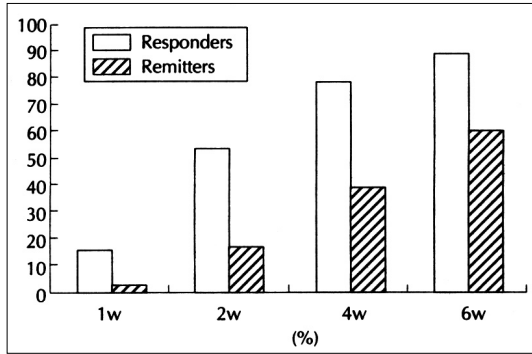
(responders) 1  
7 (15.6%), 2 24 (53.3%), 4  
35 (77.8%), 6 40 (88.9%)  
17 item - HAMD 가 7 (re-mitters)  
(15.6%), 4 17 (37.8%), 6 27 (60.0%) (Fig. 3).

3. 부작용

6 79 5%

Table 4

가 (31.6%)  
(19%) 40 (50.6%)



**Fig. 3.** Responder and Remitter rates on 17 item-HAMD during 6 weeks of treatment with mirtazapine (N = 45).

**Table 4.** Adverse events reported in more than 5% of patients at any time during the study (N = 79)

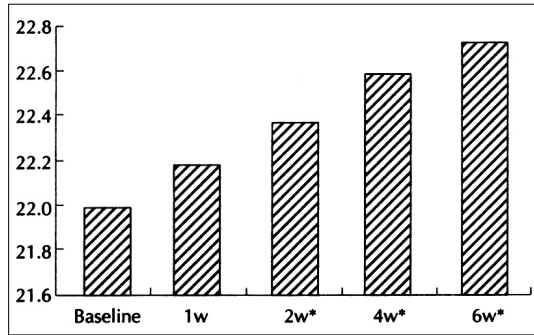
	%	Number
Somnolence	31.6	25
Drowsiness	19.0	15
Weight gain	17.7	14
Dry mouth	8.9	7
Dizziness	8.9	7
Constipation	7.6	6
Edema	7.6	6
Restlessness and anxiety	6.3	5

**Table 5.** Mean body weight and vital signs ( $\pm$ SD) at baseline and after 6 weeks of treatment with mirtazapine in completers (N = 45)\*

	Baseline Mean (SD)	6 week Mean (SD)	p value †
Body weight	58.1 (10.4)	59.9 (10.6)	<0.01
Systolic blood pressure	120.7 (13.9)	117.4 (11.8)	*
Diastolic blood pressure	78.2 (11.3)	76.0 (9.3)	*
Pulse rate	76.2 (7.0)	79.9 (9.4)	*

† Repeated measure ANOVA, Bonferroni test

\*Statistically not significant



**Fig. 4.** Comparison from baseline body mass index during 6 weeks of treatment with mirtazapine (N = 45).

\*Repeated measure ANOVA, Bonferroni test,  $p < 0.01$ .

1  
, 1  
5 (9.8%)  
가 14 (17.7%)  
7  
(8.9%), 가 6 (7.6%)  
가 6 (7.6%)  
5 (6.3%)  
가 3, 2, 1  
7% 가  
6 45 9 (20%)  
58.1 kg 6 59.9 kg  
1.8 ( $\pm$ 2.2) kg (p<0.01) 가  
(Table 5). body mass index  
22.0 2 가 (p<0.05) 6

22.7 가 (Fig. 4).  
1 54.4%가  
35.3%, 4 23.9%, 6 17.8%가  
mirtazapine 6  
alanine  
aminotransferase(ALT) 3  
가 6  
(diastolic blood pressure) (systolic bl -  
ood pressure) (pulse  
rate) 76.2 1  
80.9, 2 82.4  
4, 6 가 (Table 5).

Mirtazapine

고찰

mirtazapine

mirtazapine

(93.3%)가

ine

가

mirtazapine

mirtazapine

1

16-18)

mirtazapine trazodone

19) amitriptyline, 16,18,20,21) cl-

omipramine<sup>22)</sup> doxepine<sup>23)</sup>

가

21

mirtazapine fluoxetine

HAMD 가

24)

, 20

mirtazapine amitri-

25)

17 item - HAMD 가

50%

mirtazapine 6 89%

6

60% 가 17 item - HAMD 가 7

가

(open - trial)

가

BDI

가

mirtazapine

SSRI

mirtazapine

가

(dysthy -

51%

가

1

mic disorder)

가

mirtazapine

3,4)

SSRI

mirtazapine 5HT<sub>2</sub>

, 5-HT<sub>3</sub>

12,26,27)

가

(19%)

가(17.7%)

(31.6%)

가

10%

, SSRI

가 51%

Wheatley

(1998)<sup>24)</sup> mirtazapine 6

18.2%, 10.6%

, Dewan

Anand(1999)<sup>28)</sup> 36%

Montgomery(1995)<sup>27)</sup>

19%, 23%

mirtazapine

30 mg

mirtazapine

Nutt(1997)<sup>26)</sup> mirtazapine

( 1 ) 가 15 mg

26.5%, 30 mg 31.7%

, Su-

ssman(1996)

가

29)

79

34 (43%)

가 13 (38.2%),

가 12 (35.3%)

가

1 (9.8%) . Nutt(1997)<sup>26)</sup> 5 mirtazapine 가 ALT 3 0.3% mirtazapine , Montgo - mery(1995)<sup>27)</sup> 2% 34 10 17 (50%) 1 10 10 (58.8%) 가 6 tazapine mir - (33.3%) 가 가 . 1 , 2 (47.3%) 가 Montgomery(1995) mirtazapine , 27) mirtazapine 15 mg mirtazapine 1 89%, 60% 가 , 6 mirtazapine 가 가 . mirtazapine 가 7% 가 가 20% . Body mass index 22.0 2 가 6 22.7 가 , mirtazapine 18% 가 가 . Wheatley (1998)<sup>24)</sup> mirtazapine 6 가 가 1.8 kg 가 , 가 6 (7.6%) 가 Jensen(1999)<sup>30)</sup> mirta - 요 약 zapine 가 mirtazapine 목 적 : mirtazapine , mirtazapine mirtazapine 가 방 법 : 18 65 17 - item HAMD 가 18 6 (DSM - ) mirtazapine 6 , , mirtazapine 1 30 mg , 14 45 mg . Claghorn Lesem(1995)<sup>17)</sup>



Mirtazapine

1, 2, 4, 6  
가  
가 17 item - HAMD, CGI  
가 BDI  
가 adverse experience  
가 , , ,  
17 item - HAMD 가  
50%  
17 item - HAMD 가 7  
결 과 : 79 45  
mirtazapine 6 17  
item - HAMD, CGI, BDI  
1  
, BDI 2 4 , 4 6 가  
17 item - HAMD, CGI, BDI  
1  
15.6%, 6 88.9% , 1  
2.2%, 6 60.0% . 6  
가 (31.6%) (19%)  
가(17.7%) 가  
10%  
34 (43%)  
가 38.2%, 35.3%, 가  
20.6%  
결 론 : mirtazapine  
1  
가 . 가  
가 . ,  
mirtazapine  
중심 단어 : . Mirtaza -  
pine .

참고문헌

- 1) Greenberg PE, Stiglin LE, Finkelstein SN, Berndt ER(1993) : *Depression: A neglected major illness. J Clin Psychiatry* 54: 405-26
- 2) Angst J(1992) : *Epidemiology of depression. Psychopharmacol* 106:S71-S74
- 3) Richelson E, Nelson A(1984) : *Antagonism by antidepressants of neurotransmitter receptors of normal human brain in vitro. J Pharm Exp Therapeutics* 230:94-102
- 4) Richelson E(1991) : *Biological basis of depression and therapeutic relevance. J Clin Psychiatry* 52 (suppl 6):4-10
- 5) Anderson IM, Tomenson BM(1995) : *The efficacy of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors in depression: A meta-analysis of studies against tricyclic antidepressants. J Psychopharmacology* 8:238-49
- 6) Burke MJ, Preskorn SH(1995) : *Short-term treatment of mood disorders with standard antidepressants. In: Psychopharmacology: The Fourth Generation of Progress. Bloom FE and Kupfer DF, eds. Raven Press, New York, pp1053-67*
- 7) Baldessarini RJ(1989) : *Current status of antidepressants: Clinical pharmacology and therapy. J Clin Psychiatry* 52: 117-26
- 8) Hyttel J(1994) : *Pharmacological characterization of SSRIs. Int Clin Psychopharmacology* 9 (suppl):19-26
- 9) Delgado PL, Miller HL, Salomon RM, et al(1993) : *Monoamines and the mechanism of antidepressant action: Effects of catecholamine depletion on mood of patients treated with antidepressants. Psychopharmacol Bull* 29:389-96
- 10) de Boer T, Ruit GSF(1995) : *The selective alpha 2-adrenoceptor antagonist mirtazapine (Org 3770) enhances noradrenergic and 5-HT1A-mediated serotonergic neurotransmission. CNS Drugs* 4 (suppl 1):29-38
- 11) de Boer T, Ruit GSF, Berendsen HHG(1995) : *The alpha2 selective adrenoceptor antagonist Org 3770 (mirtazapine, Remeron) enhances noradrenergic and serotonergic transmission. Hum Psychopharmacol* 10 (suppl 2):S107-S119
- 12) de Boer T(1995) : *The effects of mirtazapine on central noradrenergic and serotonergic neurotransmission. Int Clin Psychopharmacol* 10 (suppl 4):19-24
- 13) American Psychiatric Association (1994) : *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th ed. Washington, DC, American Psychiatric Association, pp317-91*
- 14) Hamilton M(1960) : *A rating scale for depression. J Neuro Neurosurg Psychiatry* 23:56-62
- 15) 한홍무 · 염태호 · 신영우 · 김교현 · 윤도준 · 정근재(1986) : *Beck Depression Inventory의 한국판 표준화 연구. 신경정신의학* 25(3):487-502
- 16) Bremner JD(1995) : *A double-blind comparison of Org 3770, amitriptyline and placebo in major depression. J Clin Psychiatry* 56:519-26
- 17) Claghorn JL, Lesem MD(1995) : *A double-blind, placebo-controlled study of Org 3770 in depressed outpatients. J Affect Disord* 34:165-71
- 18) Smith WT, Glaudin V, Panagides J, Gilvary E(1990) : *Mirtazapine vs amitriptyline vs placebo in the treatment of major depression. Psychopharmacol Bull* 26:191-6
- 19) van Moffaert M, de Wilde J, Veerecken A, Dierick M, Evrard JL, Wilmotte J, Mendlewicz J(1995) : *Mirtazapine is more effective than trazodone: A double-blind controlled study in hospitalized patients with major depression. Int Clin Psychopharmacol* 10:3-9
- 20) Mullin J, Lodge A, Bennie E, et al(1996) : *A multicentre, double-blind, amitriptyline-controlled study of mirtazapine in pa-*

- tients with major depression. *J Psychopharmacol* 10:235-40
- 21) Zivkov M, de Jongh GD (1995) : *Org 3770 vs amitriptyline: A 6-week randomized double-blind multicentre trial in hospitalized patients. Hum Psychopharmacol* 10:173-80
  - 22) Richou H, Ruimy P, Charbaut J, Delisle JP, Brunner H, Patris M, Zivkov M (1995) : *A multicentre, double-blind, clomipramine-controlled efficacy and safety of Org 3770. Hum Psychopharmacol* 10:263-71
  - 23) Marttila M, Jaaskelainen J, Jarvi R, Romanov M, Miettinen E, Sorri P, Ahlfors U, Zivkov M (1995) : *A double-blind study comparing the efficacy and tolerability of Org 3770 and doxepin in patients with major depression. Eur Neuropsychopharmacol* 5:441-6
  - 24) Wheatley DP, van Moffaert M, Timmerman L, Kremer CM, the Mirtazapine-Fluoxetine study group (1998) : *Mirtazapine: Efficacy and tolerability in comparison with fluoxetine in patients with moderate to severe major depressive disorder. J Clin Psychiatry* 59 (6) :306-12
  - 25) Montgomery SA, Reimtz PE, Zivkov M (1998) : *Mirtazapine versus amitriptyline in the long-term treatment of depression: A double-blind placebo-controlled study. Int Clin Psychopharmacol* 10 (suppl 4) :19-24
  - 26) Nutt D (1997) : *Mirtazapine: Pharmacology in relation to adverse effects. Acta Psychiatr Scand* 96 (suppl 391) :31-7
  - 27) Montgomery SA (1995) : *Safety of mirtazapine: A review. Int Clin Psychopharmacol* 10 (suppl 4) :37-45
  - 28) Dewan MJ, Anand VS (1999) : *Evaluating the tolerability of the newer antidepressants. J Nerv Ment Dis* 187 (2) :96-101
  - 29) Sussman N, Stahl S (1996) : *Update in the pharmacotherapy of depression. Am J Med* 101 (suppl 6A) :26S-36S
  - 30) Jensen JB (1999) : *Edema tendency, dyspnea and hypertension in the treatment with mirtazapine. Ugeskr Laeger* 161 (18) : 2699