

Suicide risk with antidepressants

Antidepressant treatment tends to reduce the risk of suicidal ideation in people aged 25 years and over.

In the under-25s there is a non-significant increase in suicidal thoughts or behaviour (preparatory actions for suicide or attempted or completed suicide). When limited to suicidal behaviour alone this risk became significant.⁵

The particular risk in the younger age group is further characterised by an increased risk of non-fatal self-harm in those younger than 19 years who take SSRIs compared with older antidepressants.⁶