

INTEGRATED STRATEGIES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF INSOMNIA

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Article History: Received: 14 Mar 2026, Revised: 11 Apr 2026, Accepted: 16 May 2026

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Abstract

One of the most prevalent sleep problems in the world is insomnia. The number of patients seeking pharmacological treatment for insomnia is steadily rising due to its increased prevalence. Unwanted anticholinergic side effects have restricted the long-standing use of tricyclic antidepressants for insomnia. Clinical trials for the hypocretin/orexin antagonist MK4035 are now underway. The effectiveness of serotonin antagonists and inverse agonists in treating insomnia is being studied; however, more recent studies looking at different mechanisms of action indicate that drugs that affect the histaminergic, serotonergic, hypocretin/orexin, and possibly gamma-aminobutyric acid B systems may be useful in treating insomnia. The management of insomnia is the main topic of this systematic review. Insomnia's primary causes and risk factors are examined, such as well as the requirements for a proper diagnosis. The Creative Commons Attribution License governs the distribution of this open access article (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>): Reviewing the operational definitions and treatment of persistent insomnia is the goal of this paper. The findings of a computerized search on Pub conducted between 1980 and January 2009 were summarized. Chronic insomnia can be managed in several ways. It must be defined and distinguished from other co-morbid mental illnesses before therapy may begin.

Keywords: Insomnia, Pharmacological treatment, Orexin antagonists, Serotonin antagonists, Sleep disorders, Chronic insomnia management.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Latin words "in" (no) and "sonus" (sleep) are the roots of the English word "insomnia." The difficulty to sleep or complete loss of sleep is a defining feature of this disorder. The clinical manifestation of insomnia, the first psychosomatic condition to be identified by Johann Heinroth in 1818, is a subjective sense of discontent with the quantity and/or quality of sleep [1]. The most common presenting problems are [2], difficulty getting asleep even when in bed, frequent nighttime awakenings and difficulty falling back asleep, waking up too early in the morning, or experiencing an unrefreshing sleep.

Sleep disorders are also one of the most common conditions for adults in primary care. They are associated with a decrease in physical wellbeing and a poor view of individual health, as well as negative personal and social effects. Insomnia is described as a symptom of a sleep disorder characterized by dissatisfaction with sleep quantity or quality and one or more of the following subjective complaints: trouble falling asleep, difficulty maintaining sleep, or

early morning awakening with inability to return to sleep. Sleep deficiency is associated with heightened anxiety, physical pain and irritation, and cognitive deficits. It has been linked to increased morbidity, cardiovascular disease, rheumatic disease, respiratory disease, cerebrovascular disorders, and diabetes in the long term [3].

I.INSOMNIA

I.1. Classification of Insomnia

Insomnia is the defining and the most common symptom of insomnia.

Other common symptoms include Insomnia may be divided into three classes based on the duration of symptoms.

1. Sleeplessness that lasts for a week or less is referred to as transitory insomnia.
2. Short-term insomnia: lasts more than one week but resolves in less than three weeks
3. Long-term or chronic insomnia: lasts more than three weeks.

Insomnia can also be classified based on the reasons which are as follows: sleep hygiene

1. Sleep disorders

2. Stress factors

1.1.1. Signs and symptoms of insomnia

Impairment of daytime function

1. Daytime fatigue
2. Daytime sleepiness
3. Mood changes
4. Poor attention and concentration
5. Lack of energy
6. Anxiety
7. Poor social function
8. Headache
9. Increased errors and mistakes

1.2. Causes of Insomnia

Other symptoms may accompany insomnia, or it may be the sole symptom. Chronic insomnia is commonly caused by fatigue, life activities, or sleep-disrupting habits. Insomnia can be resolved by treating the root cause, but it can often last for year [4].

1.3. Insomnia and aging

1.3.1 Changes in sleep patterns

People are more likely to be awakened by noise or other environmental changes as they age because their sleep becomes less restful. Since the internal clock progresses with age, elderly patients become exhausted early in the evening and wake earlier in the morning. However, older people need the same amount of sleep as younger people [5].

2. MOLECULAR MECHANISM OF INSOMNIA

Many of the chemicals involved in sleep-wake control are produced by relevant brain regions that have extensive projections across the brain. Nonetheless, there is growing evidence that some sleep-regulating chemicals affect neurons locally in the areas where they are produced. It is believed that slow-wave amplitude and local sleep tendency are caused by the accumulation of sleep-regulatory chemicals like IL-1 β and tumor necrosis factor- α , which essentially come from prior neuronal use [6].

3. ELECTROPHYSIOLOGIC AND PHYSIOLOGIC DYSREGULATION IN INSOMNIA

Hyperarousal during sleep and waking has been examined using a variety of physiological and electrophysiologic (EEG) techniques. EEG indicators of hyperarousal include decreased δ activity, elevated REM EEG arousals, and increased high-frequency EEG activity (β and γ). Other physiological measures, including elevated body temperature, metabolic rate, skin resistance, and heart rate, will be covered later [7].

3.1. NREM Sleep Instability

The Neurocognitive Model of Insomnia suggests that conditioned arousal may contribute to the development of chronic insomnia, whereas maladaptive behavioral coping mechanisms may sustain acute insomnia. Conditioned arousal occurs when sleep-related cues are repeatedly associated with awake and/or arousal, leading to an arousal response

when a sleep-related stimulus is presented. Chronic insomnia is caused by cortical arousal, which is determined by high-frequency EEG activity (β and γ , 16-50 Hz) in the neurocognitive model. Classical conditioning, a conditioned response to sleep-related signals, is suggested to be the origin of this EEG activity at the onset of sleep [8].

3.2. REM Sleep Instability

The subjective perception of insomnia is associated with increased REM EEG arousals and a lower REM sleep %, as per the REM sleep instability paradigm. In one study, arousals and awakenings during REM sleep were found to be more useful than NREM measures in distinguishing between healthy sleepers and individuals with insomnia. By creating the appearance of increased awake and non-restorative sleep, fragmented REM sleep in insomnia can result in subjective-objective sleep discrepancies [9].

4. DIAGNOSIS

For a patient to be diagnosed with insomnia, they must experience at least one of the following symptoms on three or more nights per week: trouble generating and/or maintaining sleep; poor quality sleep; trouble falling asleep even when there are plenty of opportunities and conditions for sleep; or waking up too early. Patients frequently experience at least one of the following daytime impairments associated with sleep problems: fatigue or malaise; worries or anxieties about sleep; daytime drowsiness; errors or injuries at work or while driving; or difficulty focusing, concentrating, or remembering things. Gastrointestinal issues, a lack of drive, anger or mood disorders, and social or professional instability [10].

5. TREATMENT OF INSOMNIA

The primary goals of treatment for chronic insomnia are to improve deficits throughout the day and to increase the quantity and quality of sleep. Research indicates that the therapeutic treatment of insomnia in the elderly can benefit greatly from stimuli control therapy [11]. With effect sizes for waking after sleep start of 0.70, sleep latency of 0.81 to 1.16, and total sleep time of 0.41 to 0.38 [12,13].

The initial recovery plan typically includes at least one behavioral adjustment, such as relaxation therapy or stimuli control therapy. Another method is biofeedback therapy.

The following criteria ought to direct the choice of a specific drug within a class when pharmacotherapy is necessary:

1. Symptom pattern.
2. Treatment goals.
3. Past treatment responses.
4. Patient preference.
5. Cost.
6. The availability of other treatments.
7. Comorbid conditions.
8. Contraindications.
9. Concurrent medication interactions; and

10. Potential adverse effects.

5.1 Over the counter medications

Antihistamines

1. Because of their sedative qualities, the first-generation antihistamines doxylamine and diphenhydramine are sold over the counter as sleep aids. Unisom Sleep Tabs contain doxylamine, whereas Benadryl, Unisom Sleep Gels, and other medicines contain diphenhydramine. The use of these medications as therapies for insomnia in clinical trials is not supported by enough data. According to reports, diphenhydramine and doxylamine have only a limited ability to promote sleep, can impair the quality of sleep, and may cause lingering drowsiness. As a result, insomniacs should not take these medications. Constipation, dry mouth, and disorientation are among the anticholinergic adverse effects associated with antihistamines. The elderly can utilize antihistamines since they are more prone to these adverse effects.

2. Melatonin

Although it is frequently used to treat insomnia brought on by secondary causes like jet lag and shift work, melatonin, a pineal-gland hormone implicated in sleep management, is also available over the counter as a dietary supplement. In a randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled research, a prolonged-release formulation of melatonin was linked to improvements in sleep and daytime metrics, such as sleep latency, sleep efficiency, and morning alertness, following three weeks of treatment in individuals with primary insomnia. A number of patients maintained their improvements after taking medicine for six months. However, because melatonin is not licensed for the treatment of chronic insomnia due to a lack of strong effectiveness and safety outcomes, the research generally indicates that melatonin is insufficient in treating the majority of primary sleep problems with short-term application.

5.1 Eszopiclone

1. Eszopiclone is a hypnotic pyrrolopyrazine derivative that is not a benzodiazepine. It is thought to interact with GABA receptors in binding domains near or allosterically connected
2. to benzodiazepine receptors, while its
3. Reducing sleep latency and enhancing sleep maintenance are recommended for insomnia. Its half-life is only six hours. Higher dosages (two milligrams for older individuals and three milligrams for non-elderly adults) are more successful at maintaining sleep, while lower dosages (one milligram for older adults and two milligrams for non-elderly adults) are appropriate for people who have trouble falling asleep [14].

6. FUTURE PROSPECTIVES

Temazepam has a longer half-life and latency to onset than other benzodiazepines. Compared to sleep-onset

insomnia, temazepam is more beneficial for sleep-maintenance insomnia. More work should be done by researchers in the field to replicate significant insomnia study discoveries. Additionally, better research there will result from greater adherence to open science ideals.

1. The number of techniques for assessing ambulatory sleep is rapidly growing. It appears essential to look into both the overall impact of using particular tools on people with insomnia as well as their validity. Additionally, this could aid in the development of more evidence-based diagnosis recommendations beyond those often derived from clinical experience.
2. Data-driven methods seem to be helpful in better understanding potential insomnia subtypes. The benefit of such subtyping, which is also possible with other methods, is that therapeutic approaches may be more individually tailored. In research that seeks to obtain homogeneous samples, it may also lessensudy sample heterogeneity.
3. Researching the effects, advantages, and challenges of administering CBT-I to subgroups, such as various psychiatric diseases, and whether modifications are required for various patient subgroups, appears to be crucial.
4. In order to tailor treatment, future studies should look into outcome prediction techniques and the application of adaptive treatment strategies to meet the needs of certain patients that were not able to be identified prior to the commencement of treatment.
5. Research on implementation and dissemination is currently lacking. It is necessary to design, and research stepped care systems as well as methods to improve their implementation and upkeep.
6. We still don't fully understand the neurology of insomnia. Mechanistic precision is still lacking, and findings on alterations in emotional reactivity and regulation, among other things, are icon system. One of the most important issues is the often-tiny sample sizes. Therefore, both extensive epidemiological investigations and focused experimental modifications should be a part of future research in this field.
7. A deeper comprehension of CBT-I mechanisms is crucial for treating insomnia. Furthermore, it is important to do empirical research on the best order in which to administer the various CBT-I components. Further research on the effectiveness of CBT-I as an adjuvant treatment for mental illnesses and in individuals with comorbidities (such as sleep apnea) may also be beneficial. In terms of pharmaceutical treatment methods, it is common practice to treat sleep disorders off label, for example, by using sedative antidepressants. More highquality randomized controlled studies are required in this context as well.

8. How all of these scientific data can be shared with the public is a broad subject. One characteristic of ID is that those who are affected often obsess over their sleep issues and possible health problems (e.g., Harvey and Greenall 2003). Although the extent of risk is probably underestimated, research data indicating negative health effects, such as an increased risk of cardiovascular disease and hypertense Sion (Benz et al. 2023), do seem to substantiate these worries. However, a conundrum emerges: how can insomnia researchers discuss ID and pertinent discoveries without escalating worries and making the issue worse on a societal level? Fernandez-Mendoza (2018) discusses this topic in a similar way [15].

7. CONCLUSION

This SLR examined the real-world evidence for the burden and current treatment patterns for insomnia, providing an overview of the landscape in terms of humanistic and economic burden, off-label prescribing and real-world adherence and persistence outcomes. Although causality is unclear, the reporting of a high prevalence of comorbidities (including psychiatric/behavioral disorders (i.e. ADHD), cardiovascular conditions and substance abuse) and impact on QoL high lights the importance of considering these conditions in the management of insomnia. Notably, the evidence demonstrates both insomnia and treatment tolerability issues are impacting on work productivity and lead to an increased risk of accidents.

8. AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors are contributed equally.

9. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

None

10. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare.

11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NONE

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