

Review of: "Enhancing Patient-Centric Approaches and Regulatory Measures in Valproate Use"

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Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The proposed strategy outlined in the article seems comprehensive and multifaceted. It emphasizes several key points. While the strategy appears well-rounded, its ultimate effectiveness will depend on its implementation and the resources allocated to each aspect.

1. The article mentions "**recent controversy surrounding valproate in neurology**." Can the authors elaborate on the specific details of this controversy and how their proposed strategy addresses it?
2. The article acknowledges the potential epigenetic implications of valproate. Can the authors provide more specific information on the ongoing research in this area and its potential clinical applications?
3. The article emphasizes the need for individual risk assessments. Can the authors provide specific examples of factors that should be considered during such assessments?
4. How can the proposed strategy ensure effective communication and collaboration between healthcare professionals, patients, and government agencies?
5. The article mentions the need for ongoing research. Are there any specific research questions or areas that the authors believe deserve particular focus in the future?
6. Given the diverse range of potential side effects and individual responses to valproate, could exploring **genetic and epigenetic factors** associated with individual susceptibility to these side effects inform the development of **personalized risk stratification and treatment optimization** strategies?
7. While the article focuses on immediate benefits and side effects, could longitudinal studies be designed to investigate the potential impact of valproate on cognitive function and brain health over extended periods, particularly in vulnerable populations like children and pregnant women?
8. Given the potential for personalized treatment plans and the need for ongoing monitoring, could cost-effectiveness analyses be conducted to evaluate the sustainability and affordability of implementing the proposed comprehensive strategy for valproate use in different healthcare settings?
9. Authors mentioned that "**Regulators can enhance the patient-centeredness of healthcare guidelines for valproate by taking into account the personal experiences and preferences of individuals using the medication. This approach promotes a healthcare system that is more compassionate and inclusive**". While incorporating patient experiences and preferences into healthcare guidelines is commendable, some potential drawbacks need careful consideration. I will be happy to hear the author's response to these potential drawbacks:
 - Patient experiences reported may not be representative of the entire population using valproate, potentially introducing

selection bias and skewing the understanding of risks and benefits.

- Ensuring patients possess adequate knowledge and understanding of the complexities involved with valproate therapy, including potential risks and alternative options, is crucial for informed decision-making. This necessitates effective communication strategies and accessible educational resources.
- Implementing fully patient-centered guidelines may require significant resources to support individualized assessments, tailored treatment plans, and ongoing monitoring, potentially posing challenges in resource-limited settings.
- Balancing individual preferences with evidence-based medicine and public health considerations is crucial. Unwarranted treatment choices based solely on personal preferences could compromise patient safety and potentially lead to ethical dilemmas.
- Integrating diverse patient experiences into standardized and enforceable guidelines might pose practical challenges, requiring careful consideration of methodological frameworks and data collection strategies to ensure objectivity and generalizability.