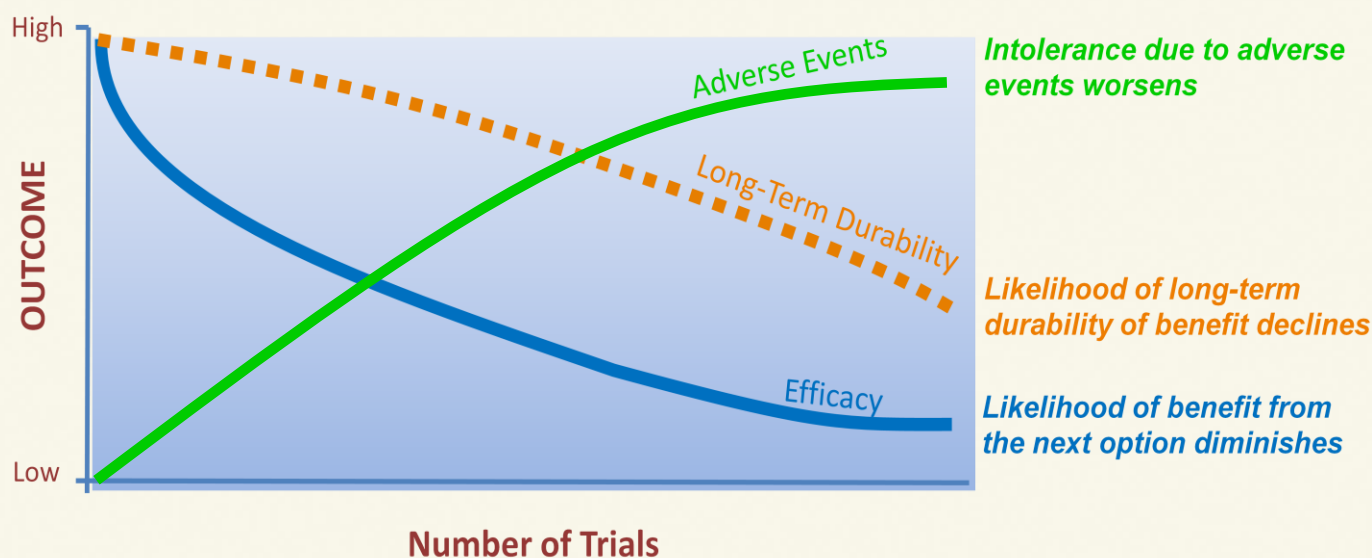


TMS TRENDS

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FINDINGS OF STAR*D STUDY



Over twenty years ago, the first modern selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) became available on the market. Since then, the treatment of major depressive disorder has advanced in numerous ways. However, current treatment options still leave unmet needs for many patients. Research funded by the NIH aimed to explore these treatment inadequacies and illuminate the areas of concern. Entitled “Sequence Treatment Alternatives to Relieve Depression” (STAR*D), this study is the largest, most definitive body of research that exemplifies modern treatment shortcomings.

The graph above presents the major findings of the STAR*D study. The blue line, representing the first major observation, illustrates the decreased efficacy of successive treatments over time. With each treatment that fails to provide relief, the likelihood of relief from subsequent treatments drops.

The second major finding, represented by the green line, illustrates the effect of successive treatments on intolerance of side effects. Significantly, the STAR*D study found that, with each successive treatment, patients were increasingly

likely to discontinue their treatment plan due to the increasing nature of the side effects.

The third major finding is represented by the dashed orange line. This line illustrates the durability of positive outcomes over successive treatment attempts. The STAR*D study found that when patients have failed to benefit from multiple treatments, the likelihood that they will be able to stay well over the long term diminishes, i.e. there is an increased likelihood of long-term relapse based on how treatment resistant a patient is in their acute treatment phase.

This STAR*D data effectively illustrates the rationale for considering TMS Therapy for patients with major depression when initial treatments have failed. It is an effective, safe, and proven approach to treatment that is now incorporated into expert consensus treatment guidelines. NeuroStar TMS Therapy is also a valuable option for those who would like to reduce their dependence on antidepressant medication and the side effect burden that accompanies them.