

Learn more about the depression and anxiety market

Despite a continued increase in patient numbers with depression and anxiety disorders, market growth is restricted by the lack of innovative therapeutic concepts with improved efficacy and faster onset of action. Currently, marketed drugs as well as development candidates can suppress symptoms but do not address the underlying mechanism of the disease.

Depression represents one of the most common illnesses in the Western world: one in five persons will be affected by depression at some point in their life. Half of the affected patient population are not adequately treated, leaving severe implications for the respective individuals and society in general.

Apart from its negative consequences on quality of life, the economic impact of depression is significant. The annual cost of depression to the U.S. economy is estimated at \$100 billion. It is second only to cancer in terms of economic impact, higher than the cost of heart disease. The antidepressant market exceeds \$15 billion turnover per year, as evidenced by the fact that three antidepressants are among the top ten blockbuster drugs in the world.

Anxiety disorders, as a group, rank as one of the most common mental illnesses. More than 180 million individuals worldwide are affected by these debilitating illnesses each year. The global anxiolytic market is expected to grow from \$2.5 billion in 2002 to \$4.6 billion by 2007. However, current drugs are outdated and do not take into account the multi-faceted causes for the disease. Therefore, physicians and patients look forward to novel therapies that will address a significant unmet need.