Stage 0 – Diagnostic assessment

Stage 1 – SSRI monotherapy\(^1\,\!^{,2}\)

Partial response or nonresponse

Stage 2 – Monotherapy with alternate SSRI\(^3\)

Partial response or nonresponse

Stage 3 – Monotherapy with drug from class other than SSRI: BUP, MIRT, NEF, TCA, VLF

Partial response or nonresponse

Stage 4A – Combination antidepressants: SSRI + TCA, BUP + SSRI

Partial response or nonresponse

Stage 4B – Li + monotherapy of previous stage (if not tried)

Partial response or nonresponse

Stage 5A – Li + monotherapy of previous stage (if not tried)

Partial response or nonresponse

Stage 5B – Combination antidepressants: SSRI + TCA, BUP + SSRI

Partial response or nonresponse

Stage 6 – Monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI)

Partial response or nonresponse

Stage 7 – Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT)

Response

Non-medication treatment alternatives

Continue

Continue

Continue

Continue

Continue

Continue

Continue

Maintenance

Response

\(^1\) Fluoxetine is the first drug of choice

\(^2\) Prescription of paroxetine is discouraged

\(^3\) Recommend lithium or bupropion