

P-1299 - ADHERENCE TO ANTIPSYCHOTIC TREATMENT IN OUTPATIENTS WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA

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Introduction: Effective treatment of schizophrenia needs medication that is taken regularly for a long period of time. Antipsychotic non-adherence is considered to be the main reason for relapse and hospital readmission.

Objectives: The objective of this study was to estimate the frequency of non-adherence with antipsychotic medication in schizophrenic outpatients and to identify socio-demographic and clinical factors that may influence this behavior.

Aim: According to the objectives, the aim of the study was to find factors that have a predictive role in regards to attitude towards antipsychotic medication.

Material and methods: This prospective 6-month follow-up study was conducted in Timisoara Mental Health Center, Romania and included 60 patients diagnosed with schizophrenia according to ICD-10 criteria. Clinical interview and the BPRS-A were applied at baseline. Patients were assessed monthly with BPRS-A and a shorter version of the ROMI scale (Rating of Medical Influences).

Results: 46.66 % of patients were adherent to treatment and 53.34 % were not. Elderly patients were more non-adherent to treatment ($p=0.04$), as were single patients ($p=0.05$). We obtained significant differences between groups considering the duration of the illness ($p=0.04$) and the mean number of hospitalizations ($p=0.02$), both being higher in the non-adherent patient group.

Conclusions: The main factors influencing adherence were: age, marital status and duration of the disorder. The most prevalent reasons for adherence were: the daily perceived benefit and relapse prevention. Prevalent reasons for non-adherence were: adverse effect of medication and the fact that medication is not currently needed.