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EW493
Medication and aggressiveness in real-world schizophrenia. Results from the FACE-SZ dataset
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Introduction The primary objective of this study was to determine if second generation antipsychotic (SGA) administration was associated with lower aggressiveness scores compared to first generation (FGA) in schizophrenia (SZ). The secondary objective was to determine if antidepressants, mood stabilizers and benzodiazepines administration were respectively associated with lower aggressiveness scores compared to patients who were not administered these medications.

Methods Three hundred and thirty-one patients with schizophrenia (n = 255) or schizoaffective disorder (n = 76) (mean age = 32.5 years, 75.5% male gender) were systematically included in the network of FondaMental Expert Center for Schizophrenia and assessed with the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I Disorders and validated scales for psychotic symptomatology, insight and compliance. Aggressiveness was measured by the Buss-Perry Aggression Questionnaire (BPAQ) score. Ongoing psychotropic treatment was recorded.

Results Patients who received SGA had lower BPAQ scores than patients who did not (P = 0.01). On the contrary, patients who received benzodiazepines had higher BPAQ scores than patients who did not (P = 0.04). These results were found independently of socio-demographical variables, psychotic symptomatology, insight, compliance to treatment, daily-administered antipsychotic dose, the way of antipsychotic administration (oral vs long acting), current alcohol disorder and daily cannabis consumption.

Conclusion The results of the present study are in favor of the choice of SGA in SZ patients with aggressiveness, but these results need further investigation in longitudinal studies. Given the potential side effects of benzodiazepines (especially dependency and cognitive impairment) and the results of the present study, their long-term prescription is not recommended in patients with schizophrenia and aggressive behavior.

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EW495
Medication adherence and cannabis use among schizophrenic patients
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Introduction Substance use is usually associated with poorer psychiatric medication adherence among schizophrenic patients. Previous findings remain unclear about the relationship between cannabis use and poor medication adherence among these patients is very important because it’s associated with relapse and rehospitalization.

Objective Determining whether cannabis use is a risk factor for compliance to medication in a population of schizophrenic patients.

Method Schizophrenic inpatients were assessed by Medication Adherence Rating Scale (MARS). Socio-demographics, clinical data, and urine drug screens were collected just after their admission.

Results A sample of 403 inpatients with schizophrenia diagnosed with Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition (DSM-IV) criteria (mean age = 33, 35 ± 9, 16), predominantly man (90%), paranoid (62%) and 89% of them received classical antipsychotics. A total of 25; 6% inpatients were adherent, among this group, 19 patients (76%) were tested negative for...
Is methylphenidate a prescription drug being sold in the illegal market? Analysis of samples submitted to a drug checking facility

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Introduction Methylphenidate is a CNS stimulant approved for treatment of ADHD. It is generally considered well tolerated and exhibiting low dependence potential, although diversion for recreational use has been described. Provided that its effects are comparable to those of more popular drugs of abuse, such as cocaine and amphetamines, we hypothesized that it could be sold as such.

Objective The aim of this study was:
- to describe the presence of methylphenidate from the samples handled, and analyzed by, Spanish harm-reduction service energy control between August 2009 and August 2015;
- to determine whether it is being sold as other drugs.

Materials and methods All samples presented to energy control (EC) were analyzed. EC is a Spanish harm-reduction non-governmental organization that offers to users the possibility of analyzing the substances they intend to consume.

Samples in which methylphenidate was detected using Gas Chromatography–Mass Spectrometry were selected for this study.

Results From a total of 20062 samples, 17 contained methylphenidate (0.09%), with no clear variations among the years studied. The samples were mostly sold as amphetamine (29%), methylphenidate (23%) and ethylphenidate (18%).

Conclusion Presence of Methylphenidate in the Spanish illegal drug market seems anecdotal and stable over the studied time-frame. Moreover, it was sold as substances with similar dosages, lowering potential for life-threatening intoxications. Therefore, our results suggest that diversion of methylphenidate into the drug market as adulterant is not a concerning phenomenon.

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