

FC03-07 - FUTURE STRATEGIES FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION IN SCHIZOPHRENIA

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Introduction: Social implications and long-term consequences of mental disorders regarding sick days at work, unemployment rates and early retirement are substantial. There is no clear understanding

- 1) whether and which social psychiatric strategies of vocational rehabilitation and
- 2) whether and how atypical antipsychotics are successful in supporting vocational rehabilitation in schizophrenia.

Objectives: Primary objective was to demonstrate the enhanced ability of schizophrenic patients to be successfully in employment after attending specific “job-consulting” programs. Secondary objective was to demonstrate positive effects of ziprasidone and risperidone on work-related functions.

Aims: Aim of the study was to enlighten the complex relationship between working performance of schizophrenic patients, their social psychiatric and medical treatment, and their cognitive capabilities in a first step.

Methods: The study was conducted in inpatients, day-clinic- or outpatients diagnosed with schizophrenia, paranoid type (ICD 10: F20.0). All patients received regular pharmacological treatment and intense cognitive training, additionally one group completed specific “job-consulting” programs. ANT, CPT, WCST, PANSS and WBN were performed after 3, 6, 12 and 24 months.

Results: At present eighteen schizophrenic patients (6 female and 12 male, mean age: 33.6 years) have been included in the study. Analyzing the data after 3 months the results are:

- 1) specific “job-consulting” programs increase the probability of employment
- 2) both, ziprasidone and risperidone, exert positive and comparable effects in work-related functions,
- 3) the better the cognitive capability the better the vocational outcome.

Conclusions: Specific “job-consulting” programs constitute a clinically relevant therapeutic option in vocational rehabilitation of schizophrenic patients.