

variables on patients' perceptions and attitude towards APs in schizophrenia.

Methods: Seventy-eight schizophrenic patients (M/F=38/35) were recruited in a naturalistic setting, from two Rehabilitative Centres of the Departments of Mental Health of Melegnano and Milano (Italy). Subjective experience towards antipsychotic treatment was assessed using the Drug Attitude Inventory-30 (DAI-30) and the Subjective Well-being on Neuroleptics (SWN) scales. The Scale for the Assessment of Negative Symptoms (SANS), the Scale for the Assessment of Positive Symptoms (SAPS) and the Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) scale were adopted to evaluate clinical and outcome variables.

Results: The analysis of study data showed a relationship between psychopathological variables and patients' subjective experience on APs treatment. Positive symptoms affected patients' perception of their treatment leading to a negative attitude towards APs, whereas negative symptoms were associated with a worse perception of patients' mental functioning. With respect to pharmacotherapy, atypical antipsychotics were associated to a higher awareness of cognitive dysfunction and better treatment adherence.

Conclusions: These findings underline the clinical relevance of taking into account the subjective experience of schizophrenic patients treated with APs in order to improve treatment adherence and outcome.

P0306

Must the risk of side effects dictate pharmacological practices?

N. Zdanowicz¹, M. Agius², G. Taormina³. ¹ *Service de Psychosomatique, Clinique de Mont-Godinne, Université Catholique de Louvain, Yvoir, Belgium* ² *Bedfordshire Centre for Mental Health Research in Association With The University of Cambridge, Luton, UK* ³ *Centro Studio Di Psichiatria, Italy*

Objectives: Recently, the SOHO, CATIE and CUTLASS studies showed that molecules which apparently showed the most side effects are not only the most effective but also tend to cause to the least frequent changes in treatment. Can we generalise this assertion?

Method: Review of the literature addressing comparing efficiency of treatments and cost efficacy studies. Result: Although we witness a profusion of publications about the efficiency of given molecules vs placebo, studies comparing molecules are scarce, and studies on cost efficacy in natural environments are even scarcer. The last few years' efforts to completely minimise side effects seem to have resulted in a reduction of medication efficacy. Moreover, the previously held hypothesis suggesting that the fewer the side effects, the less the need to change treatment has been proven wrong. The duration of a treatment is more dependent upon its efficiency.

Conclusion: Clinicians cannot use the absence of noxiousness of a molecule as their primary criterion of choice. They should carefully balance side effects and efficiency. There is a lack of studies about cost-efficacy and, in the interpretation of such studies it is essential that the limitations of the studies be taken into account, and their results should not be over-generalised. There is a danger that such misinterpretation of results may lead us to abandon the use of some of our most effective molecules, even though the data actually favours the use of Effective drugs with the appropriate monitoring of and dealing with side effects.

Poster Session I: Biological Markers

P0307

Craving, leptin and metabolic assessment in subjects with cocaine abuse-dependence

S. Andreoli, G. Martinotti, F. Alimonti, G. Autullo, M. Di Nicola, F. Tonioni, L. Janiri. *Department of Psychiatry, Catholic University of Sacred Heart, General Hospital 'A. Gemelli', Rome, Italy*

Background and Aims: Leptin is a 16-kDa protein secreted from white adipocytes; it acts by binding to specific hypothalamic receptors to alter the expression of several neuropeptides regulating neuroendocrine function, food intake and the whole body energy balance. Actually leptin is considered a modulator of withdrawal-induced craving in alcoholic subjects. We studied the hypothesis that leptin might modulate cocaine craving in detoxified cocaine abusers, evaluating any possible correlation with metabolic, hormonal and psychometric parameters.

Methods: A sample of 50 cocaine dependent subjects, according to DSM-IV-TR, has been evaluated as follows: Body Mass Index, blood pressure, heart rate, substance and drug consumption, triglycerides, cholesterol, plasma leptin value, cortisol, insulin, ACTH, FT3, FT4, TSH and: SHAPS (Snaith Hamilton Pleasure Scale), VASc/f/s (Visual-Analogue-Scale for cocaine/food/sex), CCQ (Cocaine-Craving-Questionnaire), Barratt Impulsiveness Scale, HAM-D, HAM-A at baseline and after 15 days of abstinence.

Results: Leptin levels, corrected for the BMI, resulted positively correlated with CCQ ($p < .05$). CCQ was positively correlated with VASc ($p < .001$). SHAPS was positively correlated with VASc ($p < .05$), CCQ ($p < .05$), HAM-A ($p < .05$) and HAM-D ($p < .05$). Finally HAM-A was negatively correlated with VASs ($p < .05$). These data are confirmed even after 15 days from baseline.

Conclusions: In our sample leptin correlates with cocaine craving measured by CCQ, independently from the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis. At baseline VASc (mean) was less than VAS f and s mean score, confirming the shifting craving phenomenon. Although our data confirm the correlation between leptin and cocaine craving, further studies are required.

P0308

Serotonin receptor 1a, 2a, 2c and CONT SNPs and personality traits in suicide attempters and controls

R. Calati¹, A. Serretti¹, I. Giegling², A.M. Hartmann², H.J. Möller², C. Colombo³, D. Rujescu². ¹ *Institute of Psychiatry, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy* ² *Department of Psychiatry, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, Germany* ³ *Psychiatry Department, San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy*

Background: Serotonin and dopamine neurotransmitters have been extensively studied in association with temperamental and character traits.

Objective: In the present study we considered the association between 1A, 2A and 2C serotonin receptor and COMT SNPs and personality traits, as measured by the Temperament and Character Inventory (TCI), in a sample of suicide patients and controls. The SNPs considered were for 1A receptor rs1423691, rs878567 and