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THE EMEA ADHES SURVEY IN SCHIZOPHRENIA, AN INITIATIVE TO RAISE AWARENESS OF NON-ADHERENCE TO MEDICATION. DEMOGRAPHICS AND METHODOLOGY

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Introduction: Rates of non-adherence of up to 72% have being reported, in schizophrenia, depending on the method used and the patient population. Rates of approximately 59% over 1 year have been reported for individuals with a first episode. Patients who stop medication are almost five times more likely to experience relapse than adherent patients. Failure to adhere to medication can have a major impact on the course of illness and treatment outcomes.

Objectives: The EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) ADHES schizophrenia survey was a survey of psychiatrists across the region, treating patients with schizophrenia, designed to canvas their perceptions of assessment, potential reasons and management for partial or non-adherence to medication amongst their patients.

Aims: To present methodology and demographics of the EMEA ADHES survey in schizophrenia.

Methods: The EMEA ADHES survey comprised 20 questions and was conducted in 36 countries across EMEA. In addition to recording the gender, age and practice setting of the respondents, questions related directly to the issue of partial-/non-adherence in patients with schizophrenia.

Results: The survey was conducted amongst psychiatrists (including neurologists with psychiatric background in Germany) from January - March 2010. Results were obtained from 4722 respondents. Psychiatrists perceived that during the previous month more than half of their patients (53%) were partially or non-adherent across all EMEA regions

Discussion: The EMEA ADHES schizophrenia survey is a large and geographically broad survey providing insight on psychiatrists' perceptions of the assessment, causes and management of partial and non-adherence to medication.