

Attitude Toward Antipsychotic Medications and Its Correlation with Psychopathology and Insight in Schizophrenia

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INTRODUCTION:

Patients with chronic schizophrenia require long term treatment. Attitude towards antipsychotic medications is a crucial determinant of medication adherence and is influenced by multiple factors.

The present study was conducted to investigate clinical and socio-demographic correlates of attitude of patients with schizophrenia to the antipsychotic medications and its correlation with psychopathology and insight.

METHODS:

A cross-sectional sample of 361 patients (194 males, 167 females) with schizophrenia diagnosed as per DSM IV, aged 16-55, having illness for ≤ 6 years and not having co morbid psychiatric, physical and substance use disorders, were assessed on Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) . The subjects were also assessed on drug attitude inventory -30 (DAI-30) and schedule for assessment of insight (SAI) to evaluate insight.

RESULTS: Mean age (\pm SD) of sample was 32.9 (SD 9.25) years and mean duration of illness was 286.39 (\pm 293.63) weeks. The subjects got a mean (\pm SD) score on PANSS, SAI and DAI 56.38 (\pm 17.04), 8.27 (\pm 2.76) and 18.95 (\pm 6.83) respectively. Most (92.8%) of patients had a positive attitude towards antipsychotic medications. A negative correlation ($r = - 3.78$, $p = 0.00$) was observed between scores on DAI and PANSS and a positive correlation (0.06 , $p = 0.00$) was seen between scores on DAI and SAI. No correlation was observed between scores on DAI and other clinical and socio-demographic variables.

CONCLUSION:

Majority of patients with chronic schizophrenia, who are on treatment, have positive attitude towards antipsychotic medications. There is a need for community based studies on the subject.