

Introduction: Mental disease is faced during the past years as a result of various factors, such as the participation of the family which sometimes has a negative aspect in the course of the disease.

Objective: Through the study of 15 families of the patients who live in the Residential Unit of Aspropirgos, we present the role of the family environment in the appearance and process of the disease.

Method: We observed the background of 15 patients of the Residential Unit. When they completed a month living in Aspropirgos, we completed their Personal and Social Performance Scale (PSP). At the same time, we accepted the patients' families in four weekly sessions whose goal was to explore and cope effectively with the problems that led those patients to mental disease. Patients completed the same questionnaire in their 4th and 12th month of their stay in Aspropirgos while we continued to have monthly sessions with their families.

Conclusions: Patients presented a decrease of their functionality in their 4th month in the Residential Unit (around 30%), which was accompanied by the resistance of their families in the suggestions of the therapeutic group. When 4 months were completed we put more strict limits regarding the relationships of the patients with their families, we even forbade their contact with members who provoked the most severe dysfunction in the patient. At the end of 12 months we concluded that there was an improvement of up to 50-60% compared to patients' situation in the 4th month.

P0112

Fighting stigma in schools: Pre, Post, and Follow-up results of an educational intervention

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Background and Aims: The Greek Program against Stigma and Discrimination because of Mental Illness developed an educational intervention targeting high-school students, as part of a broader anti-stigma campaign. Educational interventions aiming to confront the stigma of schizophrenia are mostly effective in preventing the formation of stereotypes and prejudice against people with schizophrenia (PWS), when implemented in populations open to change, such as high school students. The study aims to evaluate: a) students' beliefs and attitudes towards PWS and b) the effectiveness of an educational intervention in challenging stereotypical beliefs and discriminatory attitudes towards PWS.

Methods: The intervention, a two-hour semi-structured educational program, entailed guided discussions and creative activities facilitating self-expression, such as collective drawing and role-playing. A survey questionnaire was administered before and after the intervention and at a six months follow-up, in order to identify sources of information about schizophrenia, knowledge about symptoms and treatment options and students' attitudes.

Results: High-school students hold faulty beliefs about schizophrenia, are unwilling to interact with PWS, embrace stereotypical images of violence and dangerousness about PWS and draw information about schizophrenia mainly from television. The intervention was effective in challenging negative beliefs about PWS and had a significant positive effect on attitudes toward PWS, which - although weakened - remained to a considerable degree at the follow-up measure. A differential effect of students' demographic characteristics and previous contact with PWS was also found.

Conclusions: Further implementation of the educational intervention is strongly suggested, as its anti-stigma purposes have, so far, attained encouraging results.

P0113

Duloxetine for major depressive episodes in the course of psychotic disorders: A prospective clinical trial

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Background and Aims: Patients with psychotic disorders often suffer from intercurrent major depressive episodes (MDEs). Case reports suggested successful antidepressive treatment with duloxetine, a selective dual reuptake inhibitor of serotonin and norepinephrine (SSNRI). We initiated this open prospective clinical trial in order to evaluate efficacy, safety and tolerability of this approach.

Methods: Patients with a psychotic lifetime diagnosis suffering from mildly severe MDEs were treated with duloxetine over a period of 6 weeks. We evaluated effects on mood, monitored the psychotic psychopathology and assessed side effects, basal clinical and pharmacological parameters.

Results: Twenty patients were included and experienced a significant improvement of their MDE during the observation period (CDSS: Calgary Depression Scale for Schizophrenia, HAMD: Hamilton Depression scale). Psychotic positive symptoms remained stably absent while negative syndrome and global psychopathology considerably improved (PANSS: Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale). In general, the treatment was well tolerated, serum prolactin levels stayed unchanged, but pharmacokinetic interactions with a number of antipsychotic agents were observed.

Conclusions: This open prospective evaluation revealed antidepressive efficacy of duloxetine in patients with co-morbid psychotic disorders. With regard to the psychotic disorder, the treatment appears to be safe and well tolerable. Further investigations should involve a randomized control group.

P0114

Efficiency of psychoeducational programs in schizophrenia patients

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Objective: The objective of the given research is an influence of psychoeducational program on an observance of the supporting therapy regimen; on a number of recurrent hospitalizations; on a social adaptation.

Method: 92 patients were examined in 6 and 12 months after the discharge by interviewing. The comparison group was 50 patients, with an age, a duration of the disease and a sex, similar to the basic one, but not taking part in psychoeducational program.

Results: As a result of the psychoeducational programs, the schizophrenia patients have following changes. The observance by the patient of the supporting therapy during all catamnestic supervision was improved. The number of recurrent hospitalizations of the patients within a year was reduced. There is a statistically authentic positive dynamics in the field of productive relations during all catamnestic supervision. As against it, in the field of interpersonal relations the reliable positive changes in the basic group were observed only in 6 months after the discharge from a hospital, at examination