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AN ECONOMIC BURDEN COMPARISON OF TYPICAL AND ATYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTIC THERAPIES FOR SCHIZOPHRENIA BETWEEN GENERAL HOSPITAL AND PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL

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Aims: To compare efficacy and medical costs of typical and atypical antipsychotics in treating schizophrenic patients.

Methods: 250 in patients in general hospital and psychiatric hospital were randomly allocated to one of the two groups, one treated with typical antipsychotics as chlorpromazine, haloperidol and so on with a mean daily dose of 500~800 mg in chlorpromazine equivalents, and the other with atypical agents including clozapine (mean daily dose of 400~800mg), risperidone of 6 mg, or olanzapine of 20 mg.

Results: The total costs of the treatment were (3157±253) Yuan RMB for patients treated with typical agents in general hospital, and (3673±294) Yuan RMB for patients treated with typical agents in psychiatric hospital respectively. The costs for medicine were (774±903) Yuan RMB, (1061±903) Yuan RMB respectively. The costs in atypical group were (1120±390) Yuan RMB and (1637±325) Yuan RMB, and (108±157) Yuan RMB and (240±317) Yuan RMB respectively. The duration of patients treated with typical agents in hospital is longer than that with atypical agents.

Conclusions: It indicates that atypical antipsychotics have similar efficacy to typical agents in treating schizophrenic patients with less costs.