

Oral presentation

## **The treatment of schizophrenia - the state of the evidence**

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There is a constantly growing body of evidence concerning the pharmacological treatment of schizophrenia. For example, the register of controlled trials of the Cochrane Schizophrenia Group currently contains more than 8000 publications. In this context the lecture will present the current state of the art of the pharmacological treatment of schizophrenia, but using a step by step algorithm from the choice of drug for the acutely patient to effective maintenance treatment for relapse prevention. The following points will be covered: choice of drug, typical versus atypical antipsychotics, which atypical antipsychotic, strategies for agitated patients, negative symptoms, depression, duration of an antipsychotic drug trial, strategies after initial non-response, clozapine, duration-, dose and choice of drug in maintenance treatment. Methodological issues in this competitive area will also be addressed.