

Poster presentation

Psychiatric trainees' opinions toward novel antipsychotics

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Background

The aim of this study is to investigate opinions and prescribing practices towards atypical antipsychotics (AA) among psychiatric trainees in Greece.

Material and Methods

A study of a convenience sample of Greek psychiatric trainees ($n = 160$) was conducted, in 2001. Their mean age was $32.8 (\pm 2.7)$ years. There were 82 male (51%) and 78 female (49%). 111 trainees (69%) were working at National Health System and 49 (31%) at University Departments. All respondents completed a 10-items questionnaire that measures opinions and prescribing practices toward novel antipsychotics.

Results

The most often used AA were: risperidone (98.7%), olanzapine (98.1%), clozapine (79.2%), quetiapine (61.0%), sertindole (1.9%). Ziprasidone and amisulpride were not yet available in Greek market during the study time period. Combination therapy with atypical and conventional antipsychotics (63.3%) as well as monotherapy with atypical antipsychotics (24.1%) were considered as treatments of choice for treatment resistant schizophrenia (TRS). The AA more often used as monotherapy in treatment resistant schizophrenia were clozapine (72.5%), risperidone (18.1%) and olanzapine (8.8%).

Discussion

The most commonly used AA were risperidone and olanzapine. Clozapine monotherapy as well as combination therapy with atypical and conventional antipsychotics were considered as treatments of choice for TRS.