

Study of the role of atypical antipsychotic drugs on the different stages and severity of schizophrenia

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This work aimed to evaluate the effect of novel antipsychotics (clozapine-risperidone and olanzapine) on the PANNS (positive and negative syndrome scale) on different stages and severity of schizophrenia. The study included 105 schizophrenic patients selected according to the DSM IV criteria. Fifty-eight of schizophrenics had a trial of clozapine, 40 patients had a trial of risperidone and 7 patients had a trial of olanzapine for six months each. All subjects were assessed by PANNS, ESRS, BMI, ECG, CBC, BPRS and the clinical global impression (CGI) before and after the trial. The results showed that at the end of the Trial, there was a significant clinical and psychometric improvement of the patients. In the clozapine group, there was no significant difference between the effect of the drug on acute or chronic patients. In the risperidone group, there were significant differences between the cases indicating more effect in acute than chronic schizophrenics. There was a significant difference between the use of clozapine and olanzapine than risperidone in chronic cases. In risperidone group, there was significant differences indicating more effect in acute than chronic cases. No cases of extrapyramidal side effects were reported in the studied group on six months duration of the study on ESRS scale parkinsonism, dystonia and dyskinesia subscales. There was a high liability for patients taking clozapine and olanzapine for weight gain. Side effects like somnolence, insomnia, dizziness, dry mouth and blurring of vision were reported with the use of atypical antipsychotics.