

Study of the general health state of schizophrenic patients

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This study aimed to assess the general health state of schizophrenic patients and to find out any correlation between the schizophrenia and positive medical disorders if present. The studied sample consisted of 100 patients with the diagnosis of schizophrenia according to ICD 10. All patients were subjected to complete history taking, clinical and psychiatric examinations and full laboratory investigations, serum albumin/prothrombin time, ECG and plain X-ray chest. Brief psychiatric rating scale (BPRS) as well as body mass index (BMI) and smoking index were calculated to assess the severity of smoking. Patients were divided into three groups according to the treatment received : 25 patients who received conventional antipsychotics, 25 patients who received novel antipsychotics and 50 patients who never received antipsychotic treatment (naive to drugs). The results showed that atypical antipsychotics seem to play a role in the development of diabetes mellitus. 20% of patients on atypical antipsychotics had DM, while 12% of patients on typical antipsychotics had DM. No naive patients had DM. Males showed a statistically significant higher smoking index than females. Among the studied sample, 12% showed an increase in bronchovascular markings. 20% showed a picture of COPD. 2% showed a picture of non COPD emphysema. Both liver functions as measured by ALT, AST, S. albumin, prothrombin time as well as kidney functions as measured by serum urea and creatinine showed no statistically significant difference among different groups and seem to be within the normal range.