

Suicidality, violence, substance abuse : Different problems, same treatment in patients with schizophrenia

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Suicide plans occur frequently in patients with schizophrenia. Risk factors include severity of illness, frequent relapse and hospitalization.

Schizophrenic patients who have persistent and severe positive and negative symptoms and neuroleptic resistant patients might be expected to feel hopeless and be at a particularly high risk for suicide. Clozapine has been found to be the most effective antipsychotic drug in the management of patients with suicidal ideation.

A number of studies have reported increased violence in patients with resistant schizophrenia. Thus, clozapine treatment should be considered for the treatment of those patients. Substance abuse and psychosocial malfunctioning are among the commonest problematic issues in the management of schizophrenia patients. Clozapine is used effectively in these situations.