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Quality of Life of Schizophrenic Patients Treated with Haloperidol Depot and Injection Preparation of Long-Lasting Risperidone

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SUMMARY

Introduction In the last decades psychiatric patients' quality of life attracts great attention of researchers. Improving the quality of life of schizophrenic patients is increasingly becoming an imperative in pharmacological therapy.

Objective Analysis of certain aspects of quality of life in patients with schizophrenia treated with depot formulations of a typical antipsychotic (haloperidol) and injection preparation of a long-acting atypical antipsychotic (risperidone).

Methods Research was conducted as a cross-sectional study that included 60 patients of both genders. Examinees diagnosed with schizophrenia (ICD-10, F20.0-F20.9) were divided into two groups: the group of patients that received haloperidol depot (n=30) and the group of patients that received injection preparation of long-acting risperidone (n=30). In order to assess the quality of life, social functioning scale (SFS), satisfaction with life scale (SWLS), and short version of World Health Organization quality of life scale (WHO-QoL-Brief) were applied.

Results Results showed statistically significant differences when it comes to social activity and satisfaction with life in favour of patients treated with injection preparation of long-acting risperidone. Examinees from this group were much more satisfied with themselves, their health and sleep compared to those on haloperidol depot. There was no statistically significant difference found on the quality of life scale.

Conclusions Applying the scales for the assessment of the quality of life of schizophrenic patients in terms of psychosocial functioning, statistically significant difference between groups was found. Results showed higher scores in the group of patients treated with injection preparation of long-acting risperidone concerning social activities and life satisfaction.

Keywords: quality of life; schizophrenia; haloperidol; risperidone

INTRODUCTION

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines the quality of life as the individual's observation of one's own status in life within the cultural frame, and system values that he lives in, compared to goals, expectations, standards and environment problems (The World Health Organization Quality of Life Assessment – WHO-QoL, 1998). During the last decades a great attention of researchers is drawn to the quality of life of schizophrenic patients, yet the determinants of QoL for individuals with schizophrenia are not well known [1]. Chronification of psychotic process in schizophrenia shows a decrease in the quality of life of this category of patients, because gradually and on longer terms psychical functions are weakening and depressive is increasingly expressed [2]. The social dimension of quality of life of schizophrenic patients seems to correlate most negatively with the chronicity of illness [3]. Schizophrenic patients have a decreased quality of life for many reasons. Firstly, decreased personal resources

for meeting their own needs (decreased number of cognitive and social skills, hypersensitivity to stress and external criticism), which, more or less, directly takes them to social isolation, and makes them an object of social stigmatization [4]. The development of a range of antipsychotic medications has provided individuals with schizophrenia some relief from the cardinal symptoms of the illness [1].

Quality of life, besides significant influence of depressiveness, personality characteristics and adaptive mechanisms of diseased, can serve as minimal standard of treatment outcome indicators for schizophrenic patients [5]. One of unavoidable criteria for the assessment of patient's condition is self assessment of the quality of life of patients treated with antipsychotics. In the last two decades a great number of scales were designed in order to determine general subjective experience of the quality of life and subjective well-being [6].

In examining the quality of life of patients with schizophrenia, emphasize is on examinees experiencing pleasure in the usual everyday ac-

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