

Course ID: CMEC06

Trends in the drug treatment of schizophrenia

Course director: Frits-Axel Wiesel

Educational Objectives: To increase the understanding of differences between the new antipsychotics and the classical drugs. To present how knowledge of brain neurotransmission can be used to optimise drug treatment of patients with schizophrenia.

Course description: In the course evidence based data on antipsychotic drug treatment with classical compounds will be presented. This part will not only be psychopharmacologically oriented but also discuss combinations with other treatment facilities as family intervention and psychotherapy. There will also be an update on what is known about maintenance treatment with antipsychotics in schizophrenia. In the next part evidence based data on the new antipsychotic compounds will be presented and discussed. Are the new compounds more effective in the treatment of psychiatric symptoms? What are the side effect profiles for the different new compounds? To which extent do the new compounds represent progress in the drug treatment of patients with schizophrenia? Strategies for a antipsychotic drug treatment in different patient populations will be discussed as well as how the change from one compound to another. In clinical practice it is well known that many patients are only partially helped by antipsychotic drug treatment and one has to combine with other drug treatments. A great problem is the fact that there are very few studies giving support for how to combine different drugs to improve the treatment of the patients. Knowledge of brain neurotransmission should be used to select rational combinations in order to find optimal drug treatment in the individual patient. This matter is controversial but is a clinical reality and strategies will therefore be discussed and presented to the participants to help them in therapeutic efforts for their patients.

Educational methods: The course will be given as a seminar, chaired by the director. The participants will have handouts of the seminar content together with critical reprints and reference lists for future reading. The participants will be activated by the director with group discussions and presentations, using overhead, board and slides.

Target audience: Any psychiatrist who wants to be updated in psychopharmacological treatment of patients with schizophrenia.

Course level: Participants may preferably use antipsychotic drugs in their clinical practice.