

subjects underwent a PET scan with previous ingestion of 0.4 mg/kg bodyweight of d-amphetamine 90–120 minutes before scanning. Subsequently, subjects were sensitized to d-amphetamine with the same dose on two separate days. Thereafter, they underwent another PET scan with previous d-amphetamine ingestion. DEQ and SSQ were administered before, 60 min, 90–120 min, and 210 min after amphetamine ingestion.

Results We found significant sensitization effects on a behavioral level and on a neurochemical level after four administrations of amphetamine. Items of the SSQ, which showed significant sensitization effects were “outgoing”, “energetic”, “lively”, “alert” and “focused”.

Conclusions We were able to induce significant behavioral and neurochemical sensitization in healthy humans, which were measured with [¹¹C]-(+)-PHNO-PET for the first time. This sensitization model will be useful for studying the neurobiology of schizophrenia.

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An observational study of clozapine-induced sedation and its pharmacological management

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Introduction Clozapine is the only drug approved for resistant schizophrenia, but remains underused because of its side effects. Sedation is common, but its management is unclear.

Objectives To analyze factors associated with clozapine-induced sedation and the efficacy of common treatment strategies.

Aims To determine clozapine-induced sedation factors and possible therapeutic strategies.

Methods Using two years' electronic records of a community cohort of resistant schizophrenia spectrum disorder cases on clozapine, we performed three analyses: a cross-sectional analysis of which factors were associated with number of hours slept (objective proxy of sedation), and two prospective analyses: which factors were associated with changes in hours slept, and the efficacy of the main pharmacological strategies for improving sedation.

Results One hundred and thirty-three patients were included; 64.7% slept at least 9 hours/daily. Among monotherapy patients ($n = 30$), only norclozapine levels ($r = .367$, $P = .033$) correlated with sleeping hours. Multiple regression analyses confirmed the findings ($r = .865$, $P < .00001$). Using the cohort prospectively assessed ($n = 107$), 42 patients decreased the number of hours slept between two consecutive appointments. Decreasing clozapine (40%) or augmenting with aripiprazole (36%) were the most common factors. In the efficacy analysis, these two strategies were recommended to 22 (20.6%) and 23 (21.5%) subjects, respectively. The majority (81.8% and 73.9%) did not report differences in the hours slept.

Conclusions Sedation is common and involves pharmacological and non-pharmacological factors. The only correlation was a weak correlation between norclozapine plasma levels and total sleeping hours. Reducing clozapine and aripiprazole augmentation were the most successful strategies to ameliorate sedation, although both strategies were effective only in a limited number of subjects.

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Trends of hospitalization for schizophreniform disorder in USA: A nationwide analysis

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Objectives Schizophreniform disorder (SD) is an important cause of morbidity and mortality in hospitalized patients. While SD has been extensively studied in the past, the contemporary data for impact of SD on cost of hospitalization are largely lacking.

Methods We queried the Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project's Nationwide Inpatient Sample (HCUP-NIS) dataset between 1998–2011 using the ICD-9 codes. Severity of comorbid conditions was defined by Deyo modification of Charlson comorbidity index. Primary outcome was in-hospital mortality and secondary outcome was total charges for hospitalization. Using SAS 9.2, Chi² test, t -test and Cochran-Armitage test were used to test significance.

Results A total of 8645 patients were analyzed; 36.21% were female and 63.79% were male ($P < 0.0001$); 49.04% were white, 39.06% black and 19.9% of other race ($P < 0.0001$). Rate of hospitalization decreased from 599.22/million to 394.47/million from 1998–2011. Overall mortality was 0.23% and mean cost of hospitalization was 17930.23. The in-hospital mortality reduced from 0.21% to 0.15% ($P < 0.0001$) and mean cost of hospitalization increased from 9662.88\$ to 27,749.68\$ from 1998–2011. Total spending on SD related admissions have increased from \$47.59 million/year to \$853.83 million/year.

Conclusions While mortality has slightly decreased from 1998 to 2011, the cost has significantly increased from \$47.59 million/year to \$853.83 million/year, which leads to an estimated \$806.24 million/year additional burden to US health care system from 1998 to 2011. In the era of cost conscious care, preventing SD related hospitalization could save billions of dollars every year. Focused efforts are needed to establish preventive measures for SD related hospitalization.

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Assessment of cognitive impairment with the cognitive assessment interview (CAI) was useful for identifying poor psychosocial functioning outcome in patients with psychosis

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Introduction Cognitive impairments clearly impact the daily functioning of patients with psychosis.