Treating Comorbid Childhood Bipolar Disorder and ADHD

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Abstract

Objectives. Pediatric mania is difficult to distinguish from childhood hyperactivity. Both share 3 common symptoms: distractility, motoric hyperactivity, and talkativeness. Oftentimes, children are referred from their pediatrician due to a lack of appropriate response to stimulant medication. Pediatricians have learned that merely raising the dose or changing the stimulant does not work. A thorough neuropsychological evaluation often reveals bipolar mania. They may have comorbid bipolar disorder and ADHD. This paper will examine measures that can assist in this important differential diagnosis as well as offer treatment options, including medication management.

Methods. This case study includes three pediatric patients diagnosed with childhood bipolar disorder and ADHD. A comprehensive psychoeducational assessment was conducted for each of the patients, which resulted in this comorbid diagnosis.

Results. One of the most helpful measures was the TOVA (i.e., Test of Variables of Attention). When a child’s attention and impulsivity scores are normal, and response time and variability scores are abnormal, both on and off medication, that is an indication of a mood disorder. These children also performed poorly on measures of processing speed, and verbal learning and interference tasks. Measures of affect and personality were important diagnostically. A combination of amantadine and either clonidine HCL ER or propranolol, as prescribed by a medical psychologist, were found to be effective in controlling the symptoms of this comorbid diagnosis.

Conclusion. An evaluation of children’s intellectual, attentional, behavioral, mood, and personality functioning is crucial for a differential diagnosis. In cases of comorbidity, ADHD and childhood bipolar disorder, the sooner the child is on appropriate medications, the better. When just the surface diagnosis of ADHD is medicated, the outcome is often problematic. There may be a poor response to treatment and a higher rate of suicide.

Hospitalization Risk Among Adults with Bipolar I Disorder Treated with Oral Atypical Antipsychotics: A Long-Term Data Analysis of Medicaid Claims Data

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Abstract

Objective. To compare the risk of hospitalization for adult Medicaid beneficiaries with bipolar I disorder (BPD-I) when treated with lurasidone compared to other atypical antipsychotics (AAPs) as monotherapy.

Methods. Using IBM MarketScan Multi-State Medicaid Claims database, a retrospective cohort study was conducted on adult BPD-I patients who initiated an AAP (index date) between January 1, 2014 and June 30, 2019. Patients were required to be continuously enrolled during the 12-month pre- and 24-month post-index date. Marginal structural models were performed to estimate the risk of hospitalization (all-cause, BPD-I-related, and psychiatric-related) associated with each AAP and the average length of stay.

Results. The analysis included 8262 adult BPD-I patients, of whom AAP use was divided between lurasidone (14%), aripiprazole (17%), olanzapine (8%), quetiapine (29%), risperidone (10%), no/minimal (1%) or other (21%) during each month of post-index period. The adjusted odds ratios (aORs) for all-cause hospitalization were significantly higher for lurasidone (aOR=1.60, 95% CI=1.09-2.10) and quetiapine (aOR=1.54, 95% CI=1.18-1.89), compared to lurasidone. The aORs for BPD-I-related hospitalization were significantly higher for quetiapine (aOR=1.57, 95% CI=1.10-2.04) and risperidone (aOR=1.80, 95% CI=1.04-2.56) compared to lurasidone. The average length of hospital stay was more than twice as high for quetiapine compared to lurasidone (ARR=2.12, 95% CI=1.32-2.92). The risk of psychiatric-related hospitalization was numerically lower for lurasidone compared to all other AAPs.

Conclusion. Over a 24-month follow-up period, lurasidone-treated adult BPD-I patients had significantly lower risk of all-