Sex differences in antipsychotic efficacy and side effects in psychosis

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Abstract: There are a lot of studies investigating gender differences in the side effects of first and second-generation antipsychotic drugs. Even though some side effects are seen at higher rates in women, it is not determined yet the influence of gender on the efficacy and side effects of antipsychotic agents is still not well clear. In this review, we give a brief overview of antipsychotic side effects leading probably to distinguished clinical outcomes in both sexes.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

Experience Sampling Methodology as a window into someone’s real life

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Abstract: Psychiatric problems occur in people’s normal daily life, in a dynamic interaction with the context people are in. Yet, we have very few techniques to assess this dynamical nature of symptoms, nor do we have good insights in how people actually function in their ordinary life. Ambulatory assessment techniques such as Experience Sampling Methodology (ESM) or Ecological Momentary Assessment (EMA) have been proposed as a potential clinical tool to bridge this gap. Yet, very few of these techniques have actually made it to the clinic. In my talk, I will discuss the strengths and limitations of using these digital diary techniques to open up someone’s real life in clinical practice. I will discuss qualitative research identifying barriers and facilitators, identified by patients and clinicians. I also will discuss what is needed in terms of technology and data security, by demonstrating the MoMent app and MoMent Dashboard, that has been developed within the H2020 IMMERSE project. Finally, I will discuss how these digital mental health tools could help in developing a much more fine-grained understanding of how psychopathology emerges in the realm of ordinary life, making patients active partners in the clinical process.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

EPA guidance on treatment of cognitive impairment in schizophrenia

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Abstract: Although cognitive impairment is a core symptom of schizophrenia related to poor outcome in different functional domains, it still remains a major therapeutic challenge. To date, no comprehensive treatment guidelines for cognitive impairment in schizophrenia are implemented. The aim of the European Psychiatric Association (EPA) guidance paper was to provide a comprehensive meta-review of the current available evidence-based treatments for cognitive impairment in schizophrenia, structured into three sections: pharmacological treatment, psychosocial interventions, and somatic treatments. Based on the reviewed evidence, the EPA guidance recommends an appropriate pharmacological management as a fundamental starting point in the treatment of cognitive symptoms in schizophrenia. Among psychosocial interventions, cognitive remediation and physical exercise are recommended for the treatment of cognitive impairment in schizophrenia. As for cognitive remediation, some variables have been confirmed as core elements for treatment effectiveness. The dissemination of the EPA guidance paper may promote the development of shared guidelines concerning the treatment of cognitive functions in schizophrenia, with the purpose to improve the quality of care and to achieve clinical recovery in this population.

Disclosure of Interest: None Declared

Alcohol spectrum disorders in women: a review of current data

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Abstract: Epidemiological studies indicate an alarming narrowing in the gender gap of alcohol and tobacco use especially in adolescents, which may reflect changes in sociocultural patterns in women. Moreover, women use more often alcohol to cope with stress and negative feelings. Pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics differences, reward process specificities, and female hormones play a major role in gender differences. Women’s consumption of alcohol may be associated with serious birth and developmental consequences in newborns. Thibaut F et al. WFSBP and IAWMH Guidelines for the treatment of alcohol use disorders in pregnant women. The World Journal of Biological Psychiatry 2019 20(1):17-50

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