ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND: Patient’s perspective about their own wellbeing and satisfaction about medication has a significant impact on treatment adherence and long-term prognosis.

OBJECTIVES: The aim of this study is to compare wellbeing and satisfaction in a group of outpatients, affected by Psychosis, treated with First and Second Generation LAI Antipsychotics.

METHODS: 34 patients were assessed with two self-report tests: 1) Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire for Medication Version 1.4 (TSQM-9, 14-items) which explores four subscales (side effects, effectiveness, convenience and global satisfaction); 2) Subjective Well-being under Neuroleptics-Scale-Short Form (SWN-S, 20-items) which evaluates wellbeing across five subscales (Mental Functioning, Social Integration, Emotional Regulation, Physical Functioning, Self Control). Each patient has maintained the same medication for the last 6 months: 12 subjects have been treated with Paliperidone palmitate, 8 with Risperidone and 14 with Haloperidol decanoate.

RESULTS: We observed that patients treated with Paliperidone showed higher scores than others at SWN-S 20 scales and subscales. The results at TSQM-9 showed that patients treated with Paliperidone palmitate injection had higher scores in effectiveness, convenience and global satisfaction; patients treated with Paliperidone exhibited less side effects than others. Furthermore, 50% of patients treated with second-generation antipsychotics maintained an occupation.

CONCLUSIONS: Our preliminary findings highlight that patients treated with Paliperidone LAI antipsychotics feel a greater subjective wellbeing and satisfaction, related to the treatment, compared to other patients undergone to a different kind of LAI antipsychotic. At the end, patients treated with injectable SGA maintain better levels of occupational functioning.

INTRODUCTION

Psychotic disorders consist in chronic and disabling mental illnesses which require an early evaluation and an appropriate and effective treatment. These disorders, without adequate care, almost always evolve toward a progressive deterioration with a dementia-like outcome, resulting in disability for the patient, reduced life expectancy and higher social costs.

In the recent marketing of multiple LAI antipsychotics changed psychiatric interventions, which are no more only focused on a clinical improvement, but rather on the patients’ achievement of a good social functioning and on the satisfaction of their needs.

Particularly, satisfaction represents the fundamental requirement in order to create a trust relationship between patient and therapist and to obtain a successful treatment.

OBJECTIVES

We aim to explore social functioning in a group of outpatients and to compare their subjective experiences with LAI antipsychotics medications on the psychopathological molecule taken.

METHODS

Sample

A group of outpatients at Mental Health Care Center (MHC) of Forlì was recruited based on the following inclusion criteria:

- Age from 18 to 65
- Clinical diagnosis of Schizophrenia or Schizoaffective Disorder, according to DSM-5
- At least six months of the same, unvaried for molecule and dosage, LAI AP treatment

Good knowledge of Italian language

The total number of participants is 34 (16 males, 18 females), divided according to the ongoing treatment into three groups:
- 12 patients treated with Paliperidone palmitate
- 8 patients treated with Risperidone
- 14 treated with Haloperidol decanoate

Assessment

All patients were administered the following self-report questionnaires:
- Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire for Medication Version 1.4 (TSQM-9) which explores patient’s perception through 14 items referring to four areas: side effects, effectiveness, convenience (understood as simplicity of intake, length of time on medication, interference with daily activities, comfort) and global satisfaction about the treatment’s effects 1.2
- Subjective Well-being under Neuroleptics-Scale, brief version (SWN-S 20-items), which assesses subjective effects of the drugs, their correlations with the psychopathological framework, quality of life and compliance 3.

Statistical Analysis

Statistical analyses were carried out through STATA12 software (College Station Texas, USA). The level of statistical significance was established on p<0.05.

RESULTS

Socio-demographic and clinical characteristics of groups

The three groups exhibit homogenous characteristics based on age and gender. The group of patients treated with Haloperidol decanoate is composed of 14 patients (5 M and 9 F), with a mean age of 53.6 (SD: 9.52); 64% of this group is single, 22% is separated and 14% is married; 43% of these patients has a high education degree (> 9 years of education). Only 14% of this group lives alone, 43% lives with the original family, while 43% lives other kinds of cohabitation. 29% preserves an occupational status (Diagram 1).

68% of this group of patients has been treated at MHC for more than ten years, the number of hospitalizations subsequent the introduction of LAI treatment amounts to one hospitalization per person, on the total years of treatment (mean: 8 years) (Diagram 2).

The group treated with Risperidone is composed of 8 patients (4 M and 4 F), with a mean age of 55.4 years (SD: 11.44); 25% of them is single, 36% is separated, while 37% is married; 12% of these patients has a high education degree while 88% has a low education degree; none of these subjects lives alone, therefore 50% lives within the original family and the remaining 50% lives other forms of cohabitation. 50% of this group preserves an occupational status. 62% of these patients has been treated at CSM for more than ten years, the number of hospitalizations subsequent the introduction of LAI treatment amounts to one hospitalization per person, on the total years of treatment (mean: 5 years) (Diagram 2).

The group treated with Paliperidone palmitate is composed of 12 patients (7 M and 5 F), with a mean age of 48.6 years (SD: 14.86); 59% of them is single, 25% is separated, while 16% is married; 42% of these patients has a high education degree while 58% has a low education degree; 25% of this group lives alone, 33% lives within the original family, while 42% lives other kinds of cohabitation. 50% preserves an occupational status. 25% of these patients has been treated at CSM for more than ten years, hospitalizations subsequent the introduction of LAI treatment did not occur (Diagram 2).

CONCLUSIONS:

In Italy there is a lack of evidence exploring patients’ point of view on their own experiences of treatment. Our study represents an attempt to gather further information in this regard, as we are convinced about the centrality of the communication process in doctor-patient relationship. LAI treatment cannot and should not represent a strategy to avoid the dialogue. In our survey, there is the incontrovertible evidence that subjects treated with second generation LAIs exhibit greater satisfaction, less side effects and appreciably better occupational functioning compared to those treated with first generation LAIs. Our findings could be interesting in order to improve psychiatric care quality, taking as first goal not only the objective efficacy of treatments, but also the achievement of higher levels of satisfaction and empowerment for those who receive them.

Our study has some limitations. Small sample size: in future, the involvement of a greater number of patients could confirm/disconfirm our findings.

The study does not consider each patient’s insight of illness, nor the priority problems that each patient wishes to solve with the drug. Moreover, the research is not focused on what are the general expectations of the patient with respect to drug treatment.

REFERENCES: