INTRODUCTION

The atypical antipsychotic (APs) drugs are a class of agents that have become the most widely used agents to treat a variety of psychoses because of their superiority with regard to safety and tolerability profile, particularly regarding to their lower/absent propensity to induce extrapyramidal symptoms (EPS), compared to conventional/typical APs. [1-2]

METHODS

- **Information sources and search strategy**: electronic databases MEDLINE/Embase/PsycINFO/Cochrane Library
- **Inclusion criteria, study population and study designs**:
  - studies that included an atypical APs when safety and tolerability profiles were specified.
  - both genders, 18 years of age or older
  - All experimental and observational study designs
- **In Study selection and data extraction**:
  - Identified studies reviewed for eligibility by 3 authors

AIMS

- Overviewing the safety data available on clinically used atypical APs agents and comparing the AEs and side effects of these APs each other.

RESULTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Table 1. Comparative AEs of atypical antipsychotics</th>
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<td><strong>EPS=Extrapyramidal symptoms include: pseudo-parkinsonism, akathisia, acute dystonia, tardive dyskinesia.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Anticholinergic effect include: constipation, urinary retention, dry mouth, blurred vision and cognitive impairment.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>AEs-adverse events; NMS-neuroleptic malignant syndrome: + = rare; ** = low risk; +++ = high/severe risk; ^ = dose-dependent.</strong></td>
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CONCLUSIONS

Atypical APs exert more advantages compared to older/typical APs in terms of safety and tolerability profile. By definition, atypical APs show a minimal/absent propensity to induce EPS at therapeutic dosage, a lower risk to induce HP as well a higher efficacy in managing both positive and negative symptoms in schizophrenia patients.

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**References:**

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