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SAFETY OF SECOND-GENERATION ANTIPSYCHOTICS IN CHILDREN-
QUESTIONNAIRE EVALUATION IN PSYCHIATRISTS

A. Wisniewski¹, A. Acewicz², K. Brewczyk¹

¹Department of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Medical University of Warsaw, ²Zakład Farmakologii i Fizjologii Układu Nerwowego, Instytut Psychiatrii i Neurologii, Warszawa, Poland

Atypical antipsychotics are more safe than first generation drugs. But some researchers suggest that children and adolescents might be more sensitive than adults to developing antipsychotic-related adverse side effects. The standards of safety monitoring strategies do not exist in Poland.

Objective: The aim of this study was to estimate physicians awareness to side effects in youth population treated with antipsychotics.

Material: 20 questionnaires filled up by polish child psychiatrists.

Method: Information from author's questionnaire concerns side effects observed in antipsychotics medicated children, psychiatrists own preferences in safety monitoring strategies were analyzed.

Results: Atypical antipsychotics are used in 25% of medicated children. Risperidon is the most popular antipsychotic in psychotic and non-psychotic indications (81%, 66%), afterwards olanzapine (54%, 30%) and quetiapine (34%, 24%). The most common indications for antipsychotics in children are: tics (55%), conduct disorders (53%) and schizophrenia (45%). Before drug initiation doctors check liver enzymes (GOT, GTP) (98%), hematology (98%), glucose level (95%), weight and height (91%), ECG (90%). The most common side effects observed are: weigh gain (63%), somnolence (59%), prolactin elevation (47%), attention deficits (43%).

Conclusion: In spite of lack of safety monitoring standards in youth population psychiatrists seem to be aware and careful in atypical neuroleptic treatment in children.