

Methods: Thirty-six patients during inpatient-treatment for diagnoses of schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder were screened and found eligible for participation. Those who agreed to participation were assessed with the SCID for DSM-IV and received instructions towards the use of the programme, which started after discharge and was designed to last for 4 months in addition to outpatient-treatment as usual.

Results: Eight patients agreed to participation (7 male, 1 female, mean age 29 years), six of whom dropped out during the first three weeks, and only one patient completed the study.

Conclusion: In the presented study, patients suffering from schizophrenia showed a low acceptance rate of additional SMS support complimenting their regular outpatient-treatment. As opposed to our hypothesis and contrary to experiences with bulimia patients integrating an SMS intervention into the treatment of schizophrenia does not seem feasible.

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Psychoeducation and knowledge gain in patients with schizophrenia under mono- and combined antipsychotic therapy: Comparison of amisulpride vs. other atypicals

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Background: Under naturalistic conditions the influence of monotherapy versus combined therapy on the outcome of psychoeducation was to be investigated. As amisulpride has a very positive receptor profile and causes no sedation, it was of interest to which degree amisulpride has a positive influence on knowledge gain in comparison to other atypicals.

Methods: In-patients with schizophrenia (ICD -10: F2) under therapy with atypicals. 8 psychoeducational group sessions; indication for groups independent of psychopathology, insight and compliance. Medication with atypicals non restricted.

Results: 94 patients (47% female, 35 years), 40 % (38 of 94) were treated at discharge with a monotherapy and 60 % with a combination of atypicals. PANSS monotherapy at admission: 74; at discharge: 49. Patients with combination therapy had significantly higher values: 92 at admission and 66 at discharge ($p < 0.001$). Knowledge-gain was comparable; monotherapy group: Mean = 6,0 (SD 6,5); combination therapy: Mean = 6,9 (SD 12,4) (n.s.). 23 % (22 of 94) got amisulpride (5 in monotherapy and 17 in combination). Concerning safety profile and therapeutic effectiveness the non-inferior hypothesis could be confirmed. Patients with monotherapy of amisulpride at discharge had a mean knowledge gain of 10.7; that was higher than the mean knowledge gain of 6.5 of all patients (n.s.).

Conclusions: Monotherapy with atypicals was only possible among 40 %. Psychoeducation is efficient for severely ill patients with combined therapy as well. Amisulpride monotherapy showed a knowledge-gain higher than the average atypicals. For patients with high expectations concerning rehabilitation, a monotherapy with amisulpride seems to be useful.

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Caregivers in the treatment of management

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Through the process of dehospitalisation, the number of in-patient beds in all psychiatric hospitals in the western part of the world has been reduced to 10-20% of those at the beginning of the 20th century. Though outpatient services have expanded to a high degree, the main burden of the psychosocial treatment still fell upon relatives. Most of these nursing families were poorly informed regarding their new duties. Thus many families were overstrained and not able to fulfill their function as "co-therapists"

Because of the prevalence of overstrained families with dysfunctional behaviour, the EE-concept was developed in the sixties (Brown et al 1964). Through family therapeutic interventions, relatives were systematically educated and integrated into long term rehabilitation concepts. In this way, the stigma of the "HEE"- relatives was changed (Bebbington et al 1994; Schulze-Mönking 1994; Möller-Leimkühler 2008). In the meantime, the engagement of family members can be viewed as an important resource and not merely as a stress factor which is to be reduced (Pitschel-Walz, Bäuml et al 2001). In this context, psychoeducation is a very effective measure to inform family members of the background of the illness and the most important treatment elements. So they learn to have better communication with less stress and more helpful interactions. Through the establishment of a worldwide network, relatives are encouraged to cooperate with professionals and politicians to improve the living conditions of their patients. In this lecture, the historical background and actual findings concerning the empowerment of the relatives will be presented.

P0075

Delay of left hemisphere in processing information in schizophrenia?

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Background: Several neuroimaging studies have shown impaired microstructural integrity of corpus callosum in schizophrenia, which may support inter-hemispheric misconnection. However, functional connectivity has rarely been investigated in schizophrenia.

Objectives: To explore inter-hemispheric communication in a sample of patients with schizophrenia in comparison to healthy controls.

Methods: Twenty-five patients with schizophrenia and forty-one healthy controls were studied. Subjects were asked to press a key with the index-finger of their right or the left hand as quickly as possible following appearance of either a single or a double stimulus. Two measures were calculated: the difference between manual reaction times (RT) after the presentation of single stimuli to the ipsilateral (uncrossed response) or contralateral (crossed response) visual hemifield (the so-called Poffenberger Paradigm), as a measure of interhemispheric transfer time (ITT), and the difference between double and single stimuli (the Redundant Target Effect, RTE), as a measure of interhemispheric integration.

Results: Overall, patients with schizophrenia responded faster with the left than with the right hand (Paired sample t-test $p = 0.019$). Importantly, in schizophrenics there was no group difference in ITT but there was a significantly enhanced RTE.