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Clinical determinants of social media use in patients with schizophrenia and schizo-affective disorder

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Introduction: Social media networks are becoming omnipresent in our lives, and more and more available to everyone including patients with mental illnesses.

Objectives: Our study aimed to examine the prevalence of social media use in individuals with schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder, and to examine the association of severity of symptoms with social media use.

Methods: A total of 38 patients with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder were recruited from the outpatient unit of the department C of psychiatry in Hedi Chaker hospital of Sfax, Tunisia. Socio-demographic information as well as details about their social media use were collected from all the patients. Severity of schizophrenia symptoms was assessed on the Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS). A logistic regression was used to explore the association between social media use and clinical characteristics of the participants.

Results: Of the 38 study participants, 23.7% used social media. Facebook was the most popular social media site. The number of social media users were highest among participants aged 21–30 years old, married participants, residents of an urban region, employed participants and patients with a tertiary education level. Age and PANSS negative score were significantly and negatively associated with social media use.

Conclusions: Less than one fourth of patients with schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder use social media and may be suitable candidates for treatment programs supported by social media platforms, especially those of a young age and a low severity of negative symptoms.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: Schizoaffective disorder; schizophrenia; clinical determinants; social media

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Schizophrenia And Polycystic Ovary Syndrome: A Case Report

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Introduction: Patients with Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) have increased vulnerability to psychiatric disorders, particularly a tendency to depression and anxiety, as well as schizophrenia. The association between PCOS and psychiatric disorders is a topic of research given the possibility of common potential mechanisms as well as the clinical similarity between the adverse effects of atypical antipsychotics and the symptoms of PCOS.

Objectives: We proposed to investigate the etiopathogenic relationship between schizophrenia and PCOS as well as the therapeutic particularities.

Methods: We report a case of schizophrenia occurring in a patient with PCOS. Then, we conducted a literature review using “PubMed” database and keywords “psychosis”, “schizophrenia”, “Polycystic ovary syndrome” and “antipsychotic drugs”.

Results: She was an 18-year-old patient, diagnosed with PCOS since 2018. She has been followed in the psychiatry outpatient department since 8 months for psychotic symptoms (hallucinatory syndrome with thoughts of self-aggressiveness, delusional syndrome with mental automatism...). She was prescribed olanzapine (5 then 10 mg/day). However, after a weight gain (4 kg per month), this drug was switched by Risperidone (2 then 4 mg/day). The evolution was marked by the appearance of galactorrhea. Thus, the Risperidone was switched to Aripiprazole. Then, we noted a significant improvement on the psychiatric features and a better clinical tolerance.

Conclusions: For women with PCOS and psychosis, treatment with antipsychotic drugs can worsen PCOS symptomatology and lead to negative consequences for a woman’s reproductive potential and her quality of life. Therefore, the psychosis management must take these particularities into account, in order to improve the prognosis of both diseases.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: comorbidity; schizophrenia; polycystic ovary syndrome

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Suicidal tendencies in Schizophrenia patients

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Introduction: Suicide is one of the most frequent causes of death in schizophrenia patients, but the low insight in this pathology makes it difficult to identify persons at risk. The clinical picture of schizophrenia includes a wide variety of signs and symptoms, which make it hard to properly assess suicidal ideation.

Objectives: Our study was aimed at comparing tendencies among the clinical presentation and sociodemographic factors of schizophrenic patients with and without suicide attempts in their medical history.

Methods: We analysed the clinical data of 60 patients admitted to the Psychiatry Clinic of Timisoara with the diagnosis of Schizophrenia during 2020-2021. The PANNS-R scale was used for every patient, and each item was compared to the clinical data gathered.

Results: A positive history of suicide attempts was correlated to blunted affect, stereotyped thinking, lack of spontaneity and flow of