

variables on patients' perceptions and attitude towards APs in schizophrenia.

Methods: Seventy-eight schizophrenic patients (M/F=38/35) were recruited in a naturalistic setting, from two Rehabilitative Centres of the Departments of Mental Health of Melegnano and Milano (Italy). Subjective experience towards antipsychotic treatment was assessed using the Drug Attitude Inventory-30 (DAI-30) and the Subjective Well-being on Neuroleptics (SWN) scales. The Scale for the Assessment of Negative Symptoms (SANS), the Scale for the Assessment of Positive Symptoms (SAPS) and the Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) scale were adopted to evaluate clinical and outcome variables.

Results: The analysis of study data showed a relationship between psychopathological variables and patients' subjective experience on APs treatment. Positive symptoms affected patients' perception of their treatment leading to a negative attitude towards APs, whereas negative symptoms were associated with a worse perception of patients' mental functioning. With respect to pharmacotherapy, atypical antipsychotics were associated to a higher awareness of cognitive dysfunction and better treatment adherence.

Conclusions: These findings underline the clinical relevance of taking into account the subjective experience of schizophrenic patients treated with APs in order to improve treatment adherence and outcome.

P0306

Must the risk of side effects dictate pharmacological practices?

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Objectives: Recently, the SOHO, CATIE and CUTLASS studies showed that molecules which apparently showed the most side effects are not only the most effective but also tend to cause to the least frequent changes in treatment. Can we generalise this assertion?

Method: Review of the literature addressing comparing efficiency of treatments and cost efficacy studies. Result: Although we witness a profusion of publications about the efficiency of given molecules vs placebo, studies comparing molecules are scarce, and studies on cost efficacy in natural environments are even scarcer. The last few years' efforts to completely minimise side effects seem to have resulted in a reduction of medication efficacy. Moreover, the previously held hypothesis suggesting that the fewer the side effects, the less the need to change treatment has been proven wrong. The duration of a treatment is more dependent upon its efficiency.

Conclusion: Clinicians cannot use the absence of noxiousness of a molecule as their primary criterion of choice. They should carefully balance side effects and efficiency. There is a lack of studies about cost-efficacy and, in the interpretation of such studies it is essential that the limitations of the studies be taken into account, and their results should not be over-generalised. There is a danger that such misinterpretation of results may lead us to abandon the use of some of our most effective molecules, even though the data actually favours the use of Effective drugs with the appropriate monitoring of and dealing with side effects.

Poster Session I: Biological Markers

P0307

Craving, leptin and metabolic assessment in subjects with cocaine abuse-dependence

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Background and Aims: Leptin is a 16-kDa protein secreted from white adipocytes; it acts by binding to specific hypothalamic receptors to alter the expression of several neuropeptides regulating neuroendocrine function, food intake and the whole body energy balance. Actually leptin is considered a modulator of withdrawal-induced craving in alcoholic subjects. We studied the hypothesis that leptin might modulate cocaine craving in detoxified cocaine abusers, evaluating any possible correlation with metabolic, hormonal and psychometric parameters.

Methods: A sample of 50 cocaine dependent subjects, according to DSM-IV-TR, has been evaluated as follows: Body Mass Index, blood pressure, heart rate, substance and drug consumption, triglycerides, cholesterol, plasma leptin value, cortisol, insulin, ACTH, FT3, FT4, TSH and: SHAPS (Snaith Hamilton Pleasure Scale), VASc/f/s (Visual-Analogue-Scale for cocaine/food/sex), CCQ (Cocaine-Craving-Questionnaire), Barratt Impulsiveness Scale, HAM-D, HAM-A at baseline and after 15 days of abstinence.

Results: Leptin levels, corrected for the BMI, resulted positively correlated with CCQ ($p < .05$). CCQ was positively correlated with VASc ($p < .001$). SHAPS was positively correlated with VASc ($p < .05$), CCQ ($p < .05$), HAM-A ($p < .05$) and HAM-D ($p < .05$). Finally HAM-A was negatively correlated with VASs ($p < .05$). These data are confirmed even after 15 days from baseline.

Conclusions: In our sample leptin correlates with cocaine craving measured by CCQ, independently from the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis. At baseline VASc (mean) was less than VAS f and s mean score, confirming the shifting craving phenomenon. Although our data confirm the correlation between leptin and cocaine craving, further studies are required.

P0308

Serotonin receptor 1a, 2a, 2c and CONT SNPs and personality traits in suicide attempters and controls

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Background: Serotonin and dopamine neurotransmitters have been extensively studied in association with temperamental and character traits.

Objective: In the present study we considered the association between 1A, 2A and 2C serotonin receptor and COMT SNPs and personality traits, as measured by the Temperament and Character Inventory (TCI), in a sample of suicide patients and controls. The SNPs considered were for 1A receptor rs1423691, rs878567 and

rs6295, for 2A receptor rs643627, rs594242, rs6311 and rs6313, for 2C receptor rs547536, rs2192372, rs6318, rs2428707, rs4272555 and rs1801412, and for COMT rs737865, rs4680 and rs165599.

Methods: The sample was composed of three groups: two German samples, consisting of a healthy control group of 289 subjects (42.6% males, mean age: 45.2 ± 14.9) and a psychiatric patient group of 111 suicide attempters (38.7% males, mean age: 39.2 ± 13.6), and an Italian sub-sample, composed of 70 mood disorder patients (44.3% males, mean age: 42.9 ± 14.4).

Results: Controlling for sex, age and educational level, single markers and haplotypes were not or only marginally associated with personality dimensions.

Conclusions: Our study does not support 1A, 2A, 2C and COMT role on personality traits.

P0309

Voltammetric determination of neurotransmitters as biochemical markers in psychiatric diseases

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In the medical field, the monitoring of the neurotransmitters in depressive patients represents a major demand focusing of course on the health state of the patients, with social and economical effects. The efficient control of the health state cannot be realized with the help of the traditional chemical and/or biochemical methods precise and selective, but expensive and laborious. Traditional methods for identification and detection of neurotransmitters lack the speed and sensitivity to be of real usage since that they are not real time or even typically completed in a single day. One possible solution is represented by the use of the chemically modified electrodes. The compatibility with micro-fabrication technology and the low cost of these devices make them promising tool for the rapid and inexpensive detection on-line of neurotransmitters.

In the study of phthalocyanine (PhC) chemistry, an area of particular interest in recent years has been the formation and characterization of polymeric compounds in various forms and the use of these compounds to carry out well known PhC applications involving catalysis, analysis, etc. Metallophthalocyanine (MPhC) complexes catalyze the detection of neurotransmitters. The catalytic activity of ferophthalocyanine towards different neurotransmitters was compared with those of Co and NiMPhC complexes. The chemically modified electrodes have been tested for the capacity to electrochemically detect dopamine, epinephrine and serotonin (5-HT). Interference of ascorbic acid in the CP modified electrodes response was also investigated. Applications on real samples will be considered.

P0310

Association study for neurocognitive endophenotype and STin2 polymorphism in major depressive disorder

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Background: There has been extensive research concerning the role of the serotonin transporter gene (SLC64A) in depression. The STin2 VNTR polymorphism in the second intron has been found to influence the transcriptional activity of the gene, however, its relationship to major depressive disorder (MDD) has so far been less widely investigated.

Methods: 71 MDD patients and 99 healthy controls participated in a case-control study. In case of the two populations STin2 allele frequencies were compared. The subjects also completed several tests to establish neurocognitive endophenotypes related to MDD.

Results: A significantly higher frequency of the STin2 10/10 homozygous genotype in the MDD patients' group was found compared to controls ($X^2=6.01$, $df=2$, $P<0.05$). The results of neurocognitive tests indicated cognitive dysfunctions in case of MDD patients compared to controls. The clinical subgroup with at least one copy of the 10-repeat allele showed a decreased interference threshold in attention and cognitive interference as compared to patients without the 10-repeat allele. Average performance of the clinical subgroup without the 12-repeat allele proved to be significantly weaker in the verbal learning memory and recall tasks compared to patients having at least one copy of the 12-repeat allele.

Conclusion: After further confirmation our results suggest that the presence of STin2.10 and absence of STin2.12 allele may be considered a possible genetic endophenotype for cognitive dysfunctions detected in MDD.

P0311

Orexigenic and anorexigenic peptides do not differentiate two types of anorexia nervosa. The preliminary study

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Background and Aims: Anorexia nervosa is a serious eating disorder with highest mortality among psychiatric disorders. DSM-IV classification differentiates two type of Anorexia Nervosa (AN): the restricting type (AN-R) and the binge-eating/purging type (AN-BP). Orexigenic and anorexigenic peptides and cytokines are involved in mechanism of food intake and energy balance. Four young women suffered from Anorexia Nervosa (two with AN-BP and two with AN-R) took part in the study. Three girls were our reference group. The aim of our study was to estimate of differentiates genes between two types of Anorexia Nervosa: AN-R and AN-BP.

Methods: The total RNA was extracted from peripheral blood mononuclears. The oligonucleotide microarray method (HG-U133A, Affymetrix) was used to determine the expression profile of 161 transcripts for genes connected with AN. The oligonucleotide microarray method analyzes genes expression by using the phenomenon of hybridization of single-thread RNA fragments with complementary DNA probes. The results were normalized using RMAExpress. The Bland Altman method was used to examine transcripts of genes which differentiate two types of AN.

Results: Among 161 transcripts (cytokines, orexigenic and anorexigenic peptides) only cytokines have differentiated two type of