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PSYCHOPHARMACOTHERAPY AND REMISSION OF PATIENTS WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA

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Aim of our study was to determine which antipsychotic are used in the treatment of patients with schizophrenia, as well as to assess are there differences between patients treated with typical and atypical antipsychotics and how many of them are in remission according to the defined remission criteria.

All outtreated patients with schizophrenia treated at the University Department of Psychiatry Osijek in the period of three months were assessed. The patients were divided in two groups, one group of patients treated with typical antipsychotics, and the other group treated with atypical antipsychotics. All of them were assessed with specially designed questionnaire about sociodemographic data, than with 8 item of PANSS (remission criteria), and with Clinical Global Impression scale. The authors analysed 193 patients with schizophrenia, 65 (33.7%) of them were treated with typical antipsychotics, and 128 (66.3%) patients were treated with atypical antipsychotics. Our results suggest that there is statistically significant difference in the duration of psychiatric treatment between those two groups of patients as well as statistically significant difference in the number of visits to the psychiatrist in the last two years. Only item from the PANSS remission criteria in which we observed statistically significant difference between two groups of patients was G 9 (Unusual thought content). In our group of patients 98 of them (50.8%) were in remission according to the PANSS remission criteria.

Conclusion: The introduction of standardized remission criteria may offer significant opportunities for clinical practice, health services research and clinical trials.