

P-1241 - NURSES' PERCEPTIONS OF ASSESSMENT, CAUSES AND MANAGEMENT OF PARTIAL/NON-ADHERENCE TO MEDICATION: RESULTS OF THE EMEA ADHES SURVEY IN SCHIZOPHRENIA

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Introduction: Partial/non-adherence to medication is common amongst patients with schizophrenia. Nurses play an important role in assessing and managing mental health problems and are often involved in helping patients manage and adhere to their medication. As such, the perception of nurses regarding the burden and potential causes of non-adherence is vital in addressing the adherence problem.

Objectives: The ADHES nurses survey collected opinions of nurses across the EMEA (Europe, Middle East and Africa) region.

Aim: To ascertain nurses' perceptions of assessment, potential causes and management of partial/non-adherence to medication in patients with schizophrenia.

Methods: The survey was conducted from January-March 2010 in 29 countries across EMEA, comprising 14 questions addressing the issue of partial/non-adherence and the use of long-acting injectable (LAI) antipsychotic medication in patients with schizophrenia.

Results: Results were obtained from 4120 respondents. Nurses estimated high levels of partial/non-adherence (mean 54%) amongst patients with schizophrenia and 85% believed improving medication adherence would have a huge/sizable impact on patient outcomes. 93% believed that continuous medication with an LAI would have long-term benefits for patients with schizophrenia, and that many patients (mean 40%) would prefer LAI medication.

Conclusion: Nurses recognize the issue of partial/non-adherence to medication in patients with schizophrenia. Most nurses believe patients are well informed about LAI antipsychotics, however, approximately a third of nurses believe patients to be poorly informed. There is a need to address the problem of partial/non-adherence in clinical practice with a multidisciplinary approach to avoid suboptimal treatment outcomes in patients with schizophrenia.