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Which type of management is most suited for patients with a diagnosis of false self personality (FSP) within a psychodynamically-oriented institutional day hospital? A study

G. Giorgio*, F. Marmo

Fondazione Villa Camaldoli, Psychodynamic Day Hospital Integrated Psychodynamic Psychiatric Department, Naples, Italy

* Corresponding author.

Introduction Our work team have already found that our Institutional Psychiatric Open Light Treatment (IPOLT) model allows the patient affected by severe mental illness (SMI) to more easily express her/his personal coping skills rather than behaving passively thanks to the “real free spaces” separating a structured intervention from another. Our work consisted in evaluating how patients with FSP respond to IPOLT.

Objectives This paper describes observations of psychotic patients operating from the position of FSP in order to evaluate how they respond to IPOLT compared with other patients according to three standards (day hospital attendance, psychotic episodes and hospital admissions).

Aims Identify the core factors for management of patients with FSP in the context of IPOLT.

Methods We isolated a sample including patients affected by severe mental illness (SMI); within this sample, we selected a small group of patients with FSP. During the last three years, we have been evaluating patients with FSP in terms of day hospital attendance, number of psychotic episodes and number of hospital admissions compared with data obtained from other patients with SMI without diagnosis of FSP.

Results The two data sets revealed no statistically significant differences in terms of the three standards.

Conclusions Our preliminary study showed a good effect for IPOLT treatment on patients with SMI. We expected that patients affected by SMI with FSP would have a different response to IPOLT, but it was not. We do not know whether such results depend on a too small sample of patients or inappropriate descriptors.

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Late onset psychosis. Review

J.M. Hernández Sánchez^{1,*}, M.Á. Canseco Navarro², M. Machado Vera², C. Garay Bravo², D. Peña Serrano³

¹ Valencia, Spain

² Hospital General de Valencia, Psychiatry, Valencia, Spain

³ Hospital General de Valencia, Psychiatry, Valencia, Spain

* Corresponding author.

Introduction Several risk factors make older adults more prone to psychosis. The persistent growth in the elderly population makes important the necessity of accurate diagnosis of psychosis, since this population has special features especially regarding to the pharmacotherapy and side effects.

Objectives To review the medical literature related to late-life psychosis.

Methods Medline search and ulterior review of the related literature.

Results Reinhard et al. [1] highlight the fact that up to 60% of patients with late onset psychosis have a secondary psychosis, including: metabolic (electrolyte abnormalities, vitamins deficiency...); infections (meningitides, encephalitides...); neurological (dementia, epilepsy...); endocrine (hypoglycemia...); and intoxication. Colijn et al. [2] describe the epidemiological and clinical features of the following disorders: schizophrenia (0.3% lifetime prevalence > 65 years); delusional disorder (0.18% lifetime prevalence); psychotic depression (0.35% lifetime prevalence); schizoaffective disorder (0.32% lifetime prevalence); Alzheimer disease (41.1% prevalence of psychotic symptoms); Parkinson's disease (43% prevalence of psychotic symptoms); Parkinson's disease dementia (89% prevalence of visual hallucinations); Lewy body dementia (up to 78% prevalence of hallucinations) and vascular dementia (variable estimates of psychotic symptoms). Recommendations for treatment include risperidone, olanzapine, quetiapine, aripiprazole, clozapine, donepezil and rivastigmine.

Conclusions Differential diagnosis is tremendously important in elderly people, as late-life psychosis can be a manifestation of organic disturbances. Mental disorders such as schizophrenia or psychotic depression may have different manifestations in comparison with early onset psychosis.

Keywords “Psychosis”; “Elderly”; “Late onset schizophrenia”

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Late onset schizophrenia. A case report

J.M. Hernández Sánchez^{1,*}, M.C. Cancino Botello², M.F. Molina Lopez², M. Muñoz Carril³, S. Arnés González³, J.A. Monzó⁴

¹ Valencia, Spain

² Hospital General de Valencia, Psychiatry, Valencia, Spain

³ Hospital General de Valencia, Emergency Medicine, Valencia, Spain

⁴ Hospital General de Valencia, Internal Medicine, Valencia, Spain

* Corresponding author.

Introduction The presence of elderly people is more and more common in developed countries. Unlike other medical conditions, late onset psychosis includes organic and mental precipitants in its differential diagnosis.

Objectives To present a case of late onset schizophrenia.

Methods Medline search and review of the clinical history and the related literature.

Results We present the case of a 71-year-old woman with organic medical history of rectum adenocarcinoma in 2008 that underwent radiotherapy, chemotherapy and surgical resection with successful results. According to the psychiatric history, this patient has needed two admissions to the psychiatry ward, the first of them in 2012, (when the delusional symptoms started), due to deregulated behaviour in relation to persecutory delusions and auditory pseudo-hallucinations. In 2012, she was diagnosed with late onset schizophrenia. Blood tests (hemogramme, biochemistry) and brain image were normal. Despite treatment with oral amisulpride and oral paliperidone and due to low compliance, delusional symptoms have remained. We started treatment with long-acting injectable papiperidone 75 mg/28 days having reached clinical stability.

Conclusions Late onset psychosis is due to a wide range of clinical conditions. In this case, our patient had no organic precipitants. The evolution and presentation of delusional symptoms in this patient made us think of late onset schizophrenia as main diagnosis.