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ANTIPSYCHOTIC INJECTABLE TREATMENT IN PATIENTS WITH INVOLUNTARY AMBULATORY TREATMENT

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Introduction: Involuntary Ambulatory Treatment (IAT) is a judicial measure existing in Spain. Its aim is to ensure the adherence to treatment of seriously ill patients, with poor insight and repeated hospitalization. This is done by means of the regular and involuntary administration of antipsychotic intramuscular medication.

Objectives: To assess the treatment used in patients undergoing IAT in a local clinic, to assess the type of medicaments and their dosage and to verify adherence to treatment and evolution.

Material and method: A revision was made of the clinical backgrounds of all the patients of a psychiatric outpatient clinic who have been submitted to IAT (n=37). A note was made of socio-demographic variables as well as psychiatric diagnoses according to DSM-IV-TR criteria and the number of hospitalizations and treatments used.

Results: All but one patient had been hospitalized and average of 3.53 times before IAT. Since undergoing IAT only 6 patients have been admitted (16 %). Four of them relapsed having abandoned treatment.

In seven cases (19%) the patients gained insight and the antipsychotic treatment was changed from injectable to oral treatment at the patients' request. In these cases IAT was ceased.

The antipsychotic prescribed in 59 % of the cases was Long-Acting Injectable Risperidone. This percentage was higher in non-schizophrenic patients (84 %).

Conclusions: In our environment IAT could be an effective tool for severe patients with nil insight, since it can bring about an improvement in treatment adherence and evolution, as well as insight.