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FOUR EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SURVEY OF PATIENTS WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA TREATED IN EVERYDAY CLINICAL PRACTICE: CHARACTERISTICS OF PATIENTS IN SHORT-TERM HOSPITALIZATION

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Aim: The survey performed in four European countries (Germany, Greece, Italy, Spain) aimed at characterizing patients with schizophrenia treated in everyday clinical practice in terms of demographic characteristics, presenting symptomatology, and current antipsychotic treatment. We present here characteristics of patients in short term hospitalization.

Methods: A survey involving 744 psychiatrists gathered anonymous retrospective data from 3,996 patients with schizophrenia. To ensure representativeness of participating physicians, the dataset was adjusted post hoc. Principal component analysis was used to structure the patient attributes relevant for antipsychotic choice, identifying two discriminating variables (disease severity and socioeconomic level) accounting for 91% of the variance in the data. Methodology is described in full detail by Gorwood (2010).

Results: Out of 3,996 surveyed patients, 21.7% were in short term hospitalization, with a mean of 7.5 previous episodes and 5.5 previous hospitalizations. Two thirds of subjects lived with their family, with primary caregiver in 47% of subjects) being a relative. Most frequently observed symptoms were delusions (in 54% of subjects) and ideals of persecution (in 41% of subjects). 71% of subjects were smokers, 21% had drug and 18% alcohol addiction. 43% of subjects had a verified cardiometabolic comorbidity and 21% were obese. 29% of subjects had verified medication non-adherence. Most frequently used drug was risperidone (in 22% of subjects). Ziprasidone was used in 11% of subjects. 10% of subjects were on depot medication and 19% on orally disintegrating tablets.

Conclusion: Subjects with schizophrenia in current short-term hospitalization have high rates of cardiometabolic risk factors or cardiometabolic comorbidity.