

Objective: To evaluate trends in the use of antipsychotic drugs in Lithuania between 2003 and 2005 years.

Methods: The data on total sales of antipsychotic drugs in Lithuania over three years (2003–2005) were obtained from IMS Health Inc. Drugs were classified according to the Anatomic Therapeutic Chemical system, use was quantified in terms of defined daily doses. Data were calculated by DDD methodology, expressed in DDDs per 1,000 inhabitants/day. The pharmacoeconomic analysis was performed by cost minimization and reference price methodology.

Results: The total antipsychotics consumption increased by 16% over three years period reaching the value of 5,5 DDD/1000 inhabitants/day. Use of conventional antipsychotics has increased by 3%, atypical antipsychotics by 34%. The expenditures of antipsychotics has reached 39 mln Lit (in 2005), of which 48% was costs for atypical antipsychotic agents. Setting the reference price of risperidone (according to the meta-analysis results of effectiveness) for atypical antipsychotics it would be possible to rationalize schizophrenia treatment using 10,68 mln Lit extra money (1€ = 3,4528 Lt).

Conclusions: The use of total antipsychotic drugs continues to increase because of the increased use of atypical antipsychotics and some conventional antipsychotics. According to the meta-analysis results risperidone is the most effective drug for schizophrenia treatment. Considering the similar efficacy of other atypical antipsychotics and the increased high expenditures of atypical antipsychotics it is extremely important to consider the cost-effectiveness of antipsychotics. Performed cost-minimization analysis using the reference-based pricing estimated the possible reduction of total antipsychotics expenditures by 28%, the possible schizophrenia treatment rationalization.

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Evaluation study on patient's attitude towards the psychiatric treatment

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Objective: To evaluate attitude and adhesion of psychiatric patients towards its treatment, specially psychotic patients with neuroleptic treatment

Material and method: This is an open study on a population of 36 hospitalised patients in Acute Psychiatric Unit at Hospitality Center Benito Menni of Valladolid (Spain). Basic social-demographic information, characteristics of disease and treatment of each patient, their answers to an own questionnaire of quality assistance and scores derived from the application of Drug Attitude Inventory (DAI) has been collected in a protocolized form. These scores has been analysed with SSPS statistical program, crossing variables such as diagnosis or treatment.

Results: Some results are detailed as follows:

Male 38,9%, female 61,1%. Mean age 52,89. Usually single 50% that live alone 54,6% in urban habitat 65,6%, majority with schizophrenia 27,8%, followed by depressive spectrum 22,2%, with a combination of anxiolytics (lormetazepam + lorazepam) 33,3%, and risperidone (22,2%) or olanzapine (27,8%) in most cases.

After analysis we found statistical significance in differences by gender – better in case of women -, diagnosis – better attitudes with higher scores in patients with non psychotic disorder - and atypical neuroleptic treatment.

Conclusions:

1. Adherence and better attitudes were more likely in female patients, also schizophrenic, probably due to their caregivers role in society.

2. As expected, non psychotic patients with higher conscious of illness are more likely to see treatment as useful.
3. Atypical neuroleptics seems to be better in order to achieve proper treatment adherence

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Being widowed - a high risk period for suicide

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Objectives: To address and better understand the problem of high suicide rates in widows and widowers.

Methods: Sex and age specific suicide data collated by marital group were extracted from Swiss mortality statistics for the period 1991–2003. The mortality in the first week / month / year of widowhood was calculated based on person-year calculations.

Results: Cross-sectional analysis by sex and age-group confirms the existence of different suicide rate patterns according to marital status. Moreover, the profiles of suicide methods differ. In particular, suicide methods which may be associated with impulsive suicides, such as firearms or poisoning, are relatively frequent in the widowed. The suicide risk of widowed persons is extremely high in the days and weeks immediately after bereavement.

Conclusions: Suicide risk and suicide behavior varies systematically according to marital status. In particular, widows and widowers emerge as a group suitable for preventive methods because of the existence of a time window when there is increased risk. Moreover, widowed persons are a clear-cut risk group under the aegis of undertakers, priests and perhaps general practitioners.

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Prediction of antipsychotics gene targets by integration of genomic, evolutionary, and gene expression data

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Background and aims: Control of gene expression is essential for the establishment and maintenance of all cell types, and is involved in pathogenesis of several diseases. Accurate computational predictions of transcription factor regulation may thus help in understanding complex diseases, including mental disorders in which dysregulation of neural gene expression is thought to play a key role. However, predictions via bioinformatics tools are typically poorly specific.

Methods: We have developed and tested a computational workflow to computationally predict Transcription Factor Binding Sites on proximal promoters of vertebrate genes. The computational framework was applied to groups of genes found to respond to antipsychotic drugs. Our approach for the prediction of regulatory elements is based on a search for known regulatory motifs retrieved from TRANSFAC, on DNA sequences of genes' promoters. Predictions are thus weighted by conservation. These predictions are further refined using a logistic regression to integrate data from co-regulated genes.

Results: Consistent results were obtained on a large simulated dataset consisting of 5460 simulated promoter sequences, and on

a set of 377 vertebrate gene promoters for which binding sites are known (TRANSFAC gene set).

Conclusions: Our results show that integrating information from multiple data sources, such as genomic sequence of genes' promoters, conservation over multiple species, and gene expression data, can improve the accuracy of computational predictions. The results of predictions on genes involved in antipsychotics response include the drug target Homer 1, involved in glutamate synaptic plasticity response.

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Validation of a 'satisfaction from psychiatric training' questionnaire

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Introduction: Training programs for people that are occupied with mental health are a vital part of their lifelong education, along with the general evolution of psychiatric services.

Aim: The aim of this study was to validate a questionnaire, previously constructed by one of the authors, measuring satisfaction from training programs relevant to mental health.

Methods: 65 trainees that had participated in three different training programs completed a satisfaction questionnaire, comprising of 4 general subscales (educational materials, trainers, organization, general satisfaction) and 2 specific subscales (satisfaction from training program content, attitude towards trainees' efficacy). 19 of them completed it twice, in two weeks' time.

Results: The general part of the questionnaire preserved approximately its original factor structure. Reliability of the subscales was high (Cronbach's alpha was 0.84-0.86 for the three first, 0.77 for the last subscale, 0.94 for the total). Test-retest reliability was very high (Pearson's r was 0.90-0.94 for the subscales 0.98 for the total). Comments on each training program, evaluated by two independent raters (Cohen's kappa=0.96) correlated significantly with the total satisfaction score.

Conclusions: The 4 general subscales of this satisfaction questionnaire have demonstrated sufficient psychometric characteristics: factorial and external criterion validity, test-retest reliability and internal consistency, and are therefore proposed to be used, along with content-specific subscales, for the evaluation of any training program in psychiatry.

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Emotional profile of women victims of domestic violence

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The aim of this research was to analyze the emotional profile of women victims of domestic violence comparing it with the emotional profile of women who did not experience domestic violence.

It was analyzed totally 283 women, while 215 of them were victims of domestic violence and 68 who did not experience domestic violence. To identify domestic violence used was the modified inventory of domestic violence, which consisted of three parts: inventory of psychological, physical and sexual abuse. In both groups of women applied was the Profile index of emotion – Pluchik test. Collected were also basic socio-demographic data.

The average age of women was 43.27±9.69 years and most of the women (156 or 55%) were married. According to the level of education most of the women had a high school degree (111 or 39.2%), and related to the employment 164 or 58.0% were unemployed. Among the abused, 107 (50.7%) experienced a combination of various forms of domestic violence. Using nonparametric tests (Median and Kruskal-Wallis test) it has shown that women victims of domestic violence had significantly lower values in dimension of reproduction (P<0.001), incorporation (P<0.001) and BIAS (P<0.001), and significantly higher values in dimension of depression (P<0.001), opposition (P=0.029) and aggressiveness (P=0.002).

According to the results obtained by this research can be concluded that women victims of domestic violence had a lower level of sociability and trust in people, lower need to be socially accepted and increased values of dimension of fear, sadness, rejection and aggressiveness

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Attitudes toward the mentally ill in a sample of professionals working in general and clinical praxis

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The aim of this research was to examine attitudes of doctors and nurses employed in general and clinical praxis applying Community Attitudes Toward Mentally Ill (CAMI).

The survey was conducted among 1051 professionals, and out of them 826 were employees of university hospital health care and 225 of primary health care in the Tuzla Canton, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Each subject completed the CAMI questionnaire either at the hospital or at home. In addition, they each completed a short questionnaire on socio-demographic characteristics. The attitudes were examined concerning the age, sex, level of education and the institution they work in.

Out of 1051 professionals 298 were physicians (109 men, 189 women), 753 nurses (86 men, 667 women). The average age of the examined was 40.16±9.48 years (from 18 to 70 years). Employees of university hospital showed significantly (P>0.001) higher authoritarian attitudes comparing to the them from general health care. Professionals who were elder and nurses had significantly higher restrictive attitudes (P<0.001) compared with professionals who were younger and physicians. Female subjects had also more authoritarian attitudes comparing to the male.

The obtained results by CAMI scale indicate that professionals who had a lower level of education and old-age were less benevolent towards mental illness and that workers of clinical care and female workers had more authoritarian attitudes.

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Suicide of people with mental disorders in war and peace circumstances

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The aim of this study was to analyze suicide of mental ill during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and peace circumstances.

The data about committed suicide were taken out of the registration of suicide Police Department in Tuzla Canton.