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Keywords: postpartum depression; zuranolone; rapid onset of action; major depressive disorder

O0093

Benzodiazepine use during cariprazine treatment in acute schizophrenia

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Introduction: Although antipsychotics are first-line treatments for schizophrenia, benzodiazepines (BZDs) are often used as concomitant medications in acutely exacerbated patients due to their anxiolytic and sedative effects. Cariprazine (CAR), a D3-preferring dopamine D2/D3 partial agonist antipsychotic, has been examined in many clinical studies for the treatment of acute schizophrenia, with and without benzodiazepines.

Objectives: To delineate the effects of benzodiazepine-use during cariprazine treatment in acute schizophrenia.

Methods: Pooled data of cariprazine-treated (1.5-6mg/day) and placebo-treated patients from four short-term, randomised, double-blind trials (NCT00404573, NCT01104766, NCT01104779, NCT00694707) were analysed. Baseline characteristics (age, duration of illness) and efficacy outcome parameters (Total and Hostility Factor Score of the Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale [PANSS]) were compared in patients receiving benzodiazepines (for more ≥ 3 consecutive days) and not receiving benzodiazepines (< 3 consecutive days).

Results: Altogether, 36.7% and 40.7% of the CAR-treated and PBO-treated patients required BZDs. BZD-taking was associated with a higher age in both the CAR-treated ($p=0.0002$) and PBO-treated ($p<0.0001$) patients, and with longer illness-duration in both treatment groups ($p<0.0001$). PANSS Total Score at baseline was similar for BZD users and non-users (CAR: LS Mean=96.36 and 96.27; PBO: LS Mean=95.55 and 96.66). Change from baseline in the PANSS Total Score was greater for patients who did not use BZD vs those who did (CAR: LS Mean= -23.8 vs LS Mean 17.2, $p<0.0001$; PBO: LS Mean= -14.0 vs LS Mean 12.9, $p=0.5776$).

Conclusions: These findings may suggest that requiring benzodiazepines is a potential indicator of longer illness duration and poorer response in acute schizophrenia.

Disclosure: I am an employee of Gedeon Richter Plc.

Keywords: benzodiazepine; cariprazine; schizophrenia; Pharmacotherapy

O0094

Characterising the evolution of antipsychotic polypharmacy and clozapine prescribing patterns in schizophrenia patients during psychiatric hospitalisations

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Introduction: A high prevalence of antipsychotic polypharmacy (APP) and low utilisation of clozapine is considered as inappropriate prescribing that can lead to suboptimal treatment, increased risk of poor response or adverse effects.

Objectives: To explore the evolution of prevalence of APP and associated factors as well as clozapine prescribing patterns between hospital admission and discharge.

Methods: We collected retrospective data on adult inpatients diagnosed with schizophrenia spectrum disorders in 2020-2021 in 6 Belgian hospitals.

Results: Of the 516 patients analysed, APP prescribing significantly increased from 47.9% on hospital admission to 59.1% at discharge. Both on admission and at discharge, APP was associated with treatment with a first-generation antipsychotic, not being treated with an antidepressant nor a mood stabilizer, high antipsychotic dosage, increased number of psychoactive cotreatments and total medicines. A lower number of comorbidities (OR=0.68, CI=0.50-0.91), no treatment with benzodiazepines (OR=0.02, CI=0.01-0.09) nor with trazodone or sedative antihistamines (OR=0.06, CI=0.01-0.03) and two or more previous antipsychotic trials (OR=4.91, CI=1.30-18.57) was associated with APP on admission only. APP at discharge was more frequent in patients with antipsychotic adverse effects (OR=2.57, CI=1.10-6.00), prior clozapine use (OR=16.30, CI=3.27-81.22) and not involuntary admitted (OR=0.26 CI=0.08-0.88). Contrary to admission, treatment with benzodiazepines was associated with APP at discharge (OR=10.9, CI=3.38-5.38). Only 9.3% of admitted patients were treated with clozapine. Although 28.1% were eligible, clozapine was introduced to 10 patients leading to 11% being discharged on it.

Conclusions: Inappropriate prescribing of antipsychotics to schizophrenia patients persist after psychiatric hospitalisations and are associated with identifiable characteristics.

Disclosure: No significant relationships.

Keywords: clozapine; Psychiatric hospitalisations; Antipsychotic polypharmacy; Clinical pharmacy

O0095

DNA methylation may mediate psychotropic drug-induced metabolic side effects: results from a 1-month observational study

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Introduction: Metabolic side effects of psychotropic medications are a major drawback to patients' effective treatment. Among the