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Long Term Use of Antipsychotics in Schizophrenia and Relation to Cortisol Level

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Introduction and Aim of work

Literature suggest that antipsychotic medications may decrease cortisol level, an effect that seems to be more present with second generation antipsychotic. Our study aims at assessing effect of long term use of antipsychotics on cortisol level

Subjects and Methods

30 chronic schizophrenic patients on antipsychotics compared to 20 drug naïf schizophrenic patients as regards serum cortisol level

Results

Cortisol level was significantly lower in chronic schizophrenic patients receiving antipsychotics compared to drug naïf patients ($P=0.002 <0.05$)

Conclusion

Antipsychotic medications seem to have the potential to decrease cortisol level in blood. Among hypothesis proposed in literature is the good control of pseudo stress due to psychotic features