

## P02-201 - SAFETY OF THE ELECTROCONVULSIVE THERAPY-PALIPERIDONE COMBINATION

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**Objectives:** Patients with psychotic or mood disorders often undergo electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) while receiving antipsychotic and/or other pharmacological agents. Paliperidone (PLP) -a benzisoxazole derivative and the principal active metabolite of risperidone- is a second-generation antipsychotic which has been developed in an osmotic controlled-release oral-delivery system. Thus the peak-through fluctuations of its concentration in plasma are minimized, with consequently decreased incidence of side-effects. To the best of our knowledge, there are, as yet, no reports on the safety of ECT-PLP co-administration.

**Methods:** Nine female inpatients suffering from affective disorders (N=7) or schizophrenia (N=2) underwent ECT while receiving PLP (3-12 mg/d). Patients' regimen included other psychotropic medications as well (mainly antidepressants and/or antipsychotics). All patients were monitored closely for recovery time, post-ictal delirium, cardiological and EEG status for at least one hour after each ECT session. In addition to their clinical evaluation, patients' cognitive -especially memory- functioning was regularly assessed by the Mini Mental State Examination. Overall, patients underwent 83 sessions of bilateral ECT.

**Results:** ECT-PLP combination was well tolerated and even in cases where cognitive side-effects were of moderate severity (three cases; all were also receiving venlafaxine), they were transient.

**Conclusions:** Although anecdotal and thus in need of replication in well-designed large studies, our preliminary findings suggest that ECT and PLP can be safely combined whenever both indicated.