

P03-38 - ATYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTICS AND SCREENING OF METABOLIC EFFECTS

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Despite a better overall tolerance as compared to classical antipsychotics, atypical antipsychotics are not devoid of side-effects, notably metabolic factors - weight gain, alteration of lipid and glucose profile - that increase the risk of cardiovascular disease, as well as a number of other adverse long-term health consequences. Psychiatrists need to be aware of the potential metabolic side effects of antipsychotic medication and include them in the risk/benefit assessment when planning a patient's treatment strategy. Implementation of the necessary screening assessments and referral for treatment of any physical illness is essential and baseline screening and regular follow-up monitoring is advised.