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DOES THE FREQUENCY OF TOBACCO SMOKING IN PATIENTS WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA VARIES WITH REGARD TO THE TYPE OF ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUGS?

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Background: Tobacco smoking is considered as one of leading preventable causes of death. High prevalence of tobacco smoking was reported among individuals with mental illnesses, and it is extremely high among patients with Schizophrenia. It is possible that antipsychotic drugs side effects are contributing to this negative trend. Objective of this paper was to establish frequency of cigarette smoking among patients with Schizophrenia hospitalized at the psychiatry clinic and to determinate the difference in frequencies of cigarette smoking among patients with Schizophrenia treated with first or second generation antipsychotics.

Methods: Study included 60 patients with Schizophrenia treated with antipsychotics for period of six months or longer. Experimental group included 30 patients treated with second generation antipsychotics, and control group included 30 patients treated with first generation antipsychotics. Descriptive statistical methods are used. The levels of statistical significance between parametric data were determined by t-test, and between nonparametric data by chi square test. Level of significance was established at $P < .05$.

Results: In this sample was 75% smokers, and out of this 46.6% consume up to 20 cigarettes per day, 40% consume 20 to 40 cigarettes, 8.8% between 40-60 cigarettes, and 4.4% consume over 60 cigarettes per day. There was no significant differences between groups of patients treated with first and second generation antipsychotics.

Conclusion: Tobacco smoking is very frequent among patients with Schizophrenia. In this study we did not found significant difference in frequency of tobacco smoking between groups of patients treated with first or second generation antipsychotics.