

## SUBJECTIVE EXPERIENCE OF SPECIFIC ANTIPSYCHOTIC-RELATED ADVERSE EFFECTS IN SCHIZOPHRENIA PATIENTS

A. Krivoy<sup>1,2</sup>, T. Fischel<sup>1,2</sup>, M. Kotlarov<sup>2</sup>, O. Leobstein<sup>1</sup>, Z. Zemishlany<sup>1,2</sup>, A. Weizman<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Geha Mental Health Center, Petach-Tikva, <sup>2</sup>Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University, Ramat-Aviv, Israel

**Background:** Discontinuation of anti-psychotic drugs in schizophrenia patients is a major concern, since it results in relapse and re-hospitalizations. Non-adherence is strongly associated with negative subjective response to antipsychotics which is composed of the subjective experience of negative drug effects and attitude towards the treatment.

**Objective:** To assess subjective experience towards specific drug-related adverse effects which leads to a generally negative subjective attitude towards antipsychotics.

**Methods:** Attitude and experience were measured in schizophrenia inpatients (n=84) on eight subscales: weight gain, sedation, sexual anhedonia, extra-pyramidal syndrome, affective flattening, excessive sleep, diminished sociability and metabolic syndrome. DAI-30 was used to measure attitude towards drugs, and PANSS to assess psychopathology.

**Results:** Weak correlation was found between subjective experience and attitude on most of the sub-scales. The only strong, albeit inverse, correlation between experience and attitude that was found was with regard to affective flattening, experienced by 37% of the sample, and it also predicted negative drug attitude as measured by the DAI-30, RR: 1.87 (95% CI: 1.06-3.3, df=1,  $\chi^2=4.525$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusion:** Drug-related affective flattening should be evaluated routinely, since experiencing it may predict negative attitude towards drugs, potentially leading to poor compliance and relapse.