

P03-07 - COMBINED ANTIPSYCHOTICS USE IN A COMMUNITY REHABILITATION PSYCHIATRIC SERVICE

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Background: Despite the clinical guidelines regarding the use of combined antipsychotics and the limited evidence for its benefits, the use remains high in psychiatric practice.

Aims: To measure the prevalence and examine the reasons for initiating and continuing combined antipsychotics in psychiatric illnesses.

Method: A cross-sectional study was carried out using medical records in a psychiatric community rehabilitation service. A representative sample (n= 75) of patients with chronic and enduring psychiatric illnesses was studied. The age, gender, diagnosis and prescribed antipsychotics were examined. The prevalence and documented reasons for combined antipsychotic prescribing were analysed.

Results: Seventy-three of the seventy-five patients were prescribed antipsychotic mediations. Of these, 44 (60%) received a combination of 2 or more antipsychotics. The most common reason for combined prescribing was a switch of antipsychotic (n=18; 41%). No reason was documented in 19 cases (43%).

Conclusion: In-complete switching of antipsychotics contributed to a high prevalence of combined antipsychotic use, and lack of adequate documentation on reasons for the combination was common.