

(SPSS): descriptive statistics, t-criterion, correlation, Mann-Whitney criterion.

Discussion: of 70 delinquent adolescent girls (DAG), 97% were exposed to some traumatic event in lifetime, 77% had PTSD symptoms, including 38,5% in severe form. The largest risk of PTSD development in DAG was associated with rape, the death of a parent, long enforced separation from them. Risk factors of PTSD development in DAG depended on personality, cranial-brain injury, sexual-role behavior disturbance, family problems. A high index on the Spilberger test for personality anxiety, hypochondria, affect rigidity, psychasthenia, autization with a low index on the MMPI correction scale and primary use of immature personality defense mechanisms (regression and projection)- are personality predictors of PTSD development in DAG.

Conclusions: practically all DAG were exposed to single traumatic event in lifetime. Roughly 40% of DAG developed clinically severe PTSD, almost three times more than in girls with socially approved behavior. The largest risk of PTSD development in DAG was associated with rape. The other significant predictive risk factors: low socioeconomic family status; lack of social and psychological support; anxiety tendency in early childhood; unformed mature personality defense mechanisms when adolescent. It is typical for severe PTSD in delinquent girls to be relatively equally represented by reexperience, avoidance, increased arousal; high degree comorbidity with other anxiety disorders (panic attacks, obsessive-compulsive disorder), somatoform and depressive disorders.

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Nonbenzodiazepine versus benzodiazepine hypnotic efficiency analysis in older people

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Background: Poor sleep quality causes frequently and seriously impairments in older people daily functioning. More than that, inadequate treatment of insomnia side effects further decrease patients quality of life.

Objective: We examined whether between nonbenzodiazepine and benzodiazepine hypnotic treatment are significant differences regarding sleep quality, total sleep time, sleep onset latency, number of awakenings during the night, global functioning and side effects.

Method: A group of 40 outpatients, 16 male and 24 female, mean age 67.9, diagnosed with insomnia, was divided in two equally groups, each of them receiving for at least 7 days either zolpidem 5 mg/day or diazepam 10 mg/day, overnight. Inclusion criteria: age over 65. Exclusion criteria: physical illness and psychiatric disorders that disrupt sleep, simultaneous administration of other sedative drugs. An assessment using Clinical Global Impressions (CGI), Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) and self reports for depth, total perceived time, onset latency of sleep, number of awakenings during night and side effects were realised every day for a week.

Results: The intent-to-treat (ITT) and last-observation-carried-forward (LOCF) analysis reflected statistically significant differences from the day 2 in four variables- depth of sleep (+3/+1.2, $p < 0.01$), number of awakenings (+3.2/+4.9, $p < 0.01$), GAF (+7.8/+5.5, $p < 0.01$) and CGI (-1.9/-0.7, $p < 0.01$) in favor of zolpidem treated patients. Also, side effects were significantly more frequent reported in benzodiazepine group (15/10, dropouts 3/1, $p < 0.01$).

Conclusion: Zolpidem is a first choice treatment in older people because it is well tolerated and have a good efficacy profile compared to diazepam.

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The problems of individual dynamics of stress-related disorders

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It is known now that the dynamics and prognosis of stress-related disorders depends on the persistence of stress syndrome (re-experiencing, avoidance/overcoming, arousal) related to the symptoms of anxiety. Much less attention had paid to other ways of dynamics of stress-related disorders. The preliminary results of the investigation of stress-related disorders in general and specialized medical practice have shown three affective ways of psychic trauma fixation and stress-related disorders persistence – anxious, melancholic and apathetic. For further elaboration of affective model of stress-related disorders integrated psychiatric and psychological approach is applying.

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A psychophysiological investigation of emotional processing in subjects with panic disorder

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Recent evidence reveals that subjects with panic disorder tend to interpret ambiguous stimuli as dangerous and/or threatening and present an attentional bias for threat-related cues. The present study is aimed to investigate, by means of high temporal resolution imaging techniques, the automatic processing of emotional stimuli in subjects with panic disorder (PD).

To this aim, we enrolled 33 drug-free patients with a DSM-IV diagnosis of PD and 26 healthy controls. The two groups were comparable for age, education and gender distribution. Event-related potentials (ERP) were recorded from 30 scalp electrodes while subjects were attending a modified visual oddball task, in which rare target and frequent standard stimuli were randomly intermixed with emotional (neutral, phobic, erotic and threatening) rare distractors. The topographic characteristics of the ERP components were analyzed using the brain electrical microstates (BEM) technique.

Patients with PD had a shorter duration of the first microstate for all distractors, except for the threatening stimuli, as compared to controls; in PD patients, the processing of threatening stimuli was associated with a different microstate sequence in early cognitive stages and a longer duration of microstate classes in early and late cognitive stages, with respect to healthy subjects.

In line with previous findings, our study showed abnormalities of emotional processing in subjects with PD. Furthermore, in line with cognitive models of PD, our results indicate an attentional bias for threatening information.

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Assessment of exposure and resistance to emotional stress

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Emotional stress has been reported to be related to higher blood pressure and unfavorable cardiovascular profile. The aim of this study was to estimate the exposure and the resistance to emotional stress in