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### **BUPROPION FOR SMOKING CESSATION IN SCHIZOPHRENIA**

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Bupropion is a catecholamine reuptake inhibitor and also a potent noncompetitive ion channel site antagonist at the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor. Bupropion is indicated for use in combination with behavioral modification programs for smoking cessation. There have been a few studies about the effect of bupropion on smoking cessation in schizophrenia. Therefore, we aimed investigated the change of the symptomatology after smoking cessation with bupropion in the patients with schizophrenia.

There were fifty-six patients with smoking in the psychiatric ward of Hapcheon Korea Hospital. Among them, thirty-nine inpatients meeting the DSM-IV criteria for schizophrenia were recruited. For 4 weeks, treatment team persuaded the patients to enter the program of smoking cessation. With the exception, if the patients did not agree the program, the patients were able to be transferred to another ward that smoking was permitted. All patients agreed to the program. Positive and Negative Symptom Scale (PANSS), Temperament and Character Inventory(TCI), State-Trait Anxiety Inventory(STAI), Fagerstrom Test for Nicotine Dependence(FTND) were evaluated at the beginning of the study and 12 weeks of Bupropion treatment.

At 12 weeks after successful smoking cessation with bupropion, FTND scores were significantly decreased after smoking cessation. The scores of STAI and PANSS were not significantly changed. The subscale of TCI, Novelty Seeking showed decreasing tendency after smoking cessation, although there was no statistical significance( $p=0.054$ ).

These results suggest that bupropion is an effective antidepressant on smoking cessation and does not aggravate the psychotic symptoms in schizophrenia. Further investigation with larger number of subjects is needed.