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IMPROVEMENT OF OBSESSIVE-COMPULSIVE SYMPTOMS IN SCHIZOPHRENIA PATIENTS AFTER SWITCHING FROM TYPICAL OR ATYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTICS TO AMISULPRIDE

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Background: Obsessive-compulsive symptoms (OCSs) are frequently comorbid with schizophrenia. Various atypical antipsychotics induce OCSs by 5-HT2A receptor inhibition . Amisulpride causes only minimal inhibition of the 5-HT2A receptor, and therefore, should not induce or exacerbate OCSs in patients with schizophrenia.

Objective: To evaluate the efficacy and tolerability of amisulpride on OCSs in patients with schizophrenia who were taking typical or atypical antipsychotics.

Method: 21 patients , aged 18-65 years, with schizophrenia and OCSs (DSM-4 criteria) with a score of 16 or higher on YBOCS and taking a single antipsychotic were enrolled to a 12-week prospective open trial of amisulpride (400-1200 mg/d). Changes in YBOCS, PANSS,CGI,GAF QLS -18, extrapyramidal symptoms, adverse events, and body-weight changes were evaluated 12 weeks after the antipsychotics were switched to amisulpride.

Results: All 19 patients who completed the trial had an improvement on the YBOCS,PANSS,CGI,GAF AND QLS-18. At week 12,the mean YBOCS total score decreased significantly (26.579 ± 5.124 vs.14.631± 5.479; $p < 0.001$),the mean PANSS total score decreased significantly (83.947±17.886 vs.63.421±14.311; $p < 0.001$). Eight patients (42.1%) showed 50% or more improvement in the YBOCS total score. Thirteen patients (68.4%) showed 20% or greater improvement in the PANSS total score. Amisulpiride was safe and well tolerated.

Conclusions: These results indicate that switch to amisulpiride is very effective for OCSs , psychotic symptoms and global functioning in patients with schizophrenia.However, changes in OCSs and psychotic symptoms were independent. Further studies with amisulpiride under controlled conditions are needed for these patients.