

Factors affecting switching from clozapine to paliperidone among patients with chronic schizophrenia in a nursing home - A preliminary study

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Background

Clozapine is used as second-line antipsychotic for patients with refractory schizophrenia. However, intolerable side effect makes it difficult for patients to take it, such as metabolic syndrome. from clozapine to other antipsychotics still remains a challenge.

Aims & Objectives

The present study aimed to investigate the predictors for failed switching from clozapine to paliperidone (FSCP) among patients chronic with chronic schizophrenia and intolerable side effect from clozapine.

Methods

This 3-year retrospective study included 21 individuals (12 males and 9 females) with chronic schizophrenia who were intended to switch from clozapine to paliperidone in our clinics at Kaohsiung Municipal Kai-Syuan Psychiatric Hospital-affiliated Nursing Home. A univariate Cox proportional hazards regression model (Cox model) was used to estimate the potential factors of subsequent FSCP, followed by a multivariate Cox model to identify significant predictors of FSCP after adjusting for other covariates.

Results

Fifteen of the 21 participants (71.4%) were failed to switch from clozapine to paliperidone. Initially, present family history of schizophrenia at first degree relatives (hazard ratio [HR] =7.87; P=0.047), longer duration of illness (HR =1.12; P=0.042), longer average admission days during one year before switching (HR =1.02; P=0.004), and higher average daily dose of clozapine during one year before switching (HR =1.01; P=0.022) were potentially associated with failure switching. After forward selection in the Cox hazard regression model, longer average admission days during one year before switching (HR =1.02; P=0.004) were significantly associated with FSCP.

Discussion & Conclusion

We identified predictors that were significantly associated with FSCP. Clinicians should discuss with their patients about benefit and risk if they wanted to switch clozapine to other paliperidone. Future studies with larger samples are necessary to verify our findings and extend the applicability.