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**Rapid metabolism of antipsychotics and akathisia in schizophrenic Court-Order detention patients: A selection bias**

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**Objectives:** Investigate whether prescribed antipsychotics have yielded effective plasma levels.

**Methods:** In three groups of ten inpatients (Pompe Foundation for Forensic Psychiatry, 2007) and in one group of ten inpatients (Forensic Psychiatric Center Oldenkotte, 2008) plasma level monitoring was done after informed consent in patients who were using antipsychotic medication in average or high dose. To exclude a possible role of ultra rapid metabolism, pharmacogenetic investigation was carried out in addition in the patients of the last group of ten patients.

**Results:** In ten out of 30 and in three out of ten patients, respectively, so in one third, plasma levels were subliminal or relatively low. No duplication of the gene for CYP2D6 was found. Based on the pharmacogenetic outcome the hypothesis of ultra rapid metabolism had to be rejected. One might assume, however, that the intensity of metabolism of the CYP2D6 in this special subgroup of patients was at the fast side of the Gaussian distribution. A high percentage of these patients suffered from severe side effects, especially from akathisia, indicative for hypersensitivity for this side effect at even subliminal plasma levels. Both limitations might have led to a selection bias. Probably these patients would have refused, at the time prior to the offence, to accept an increase of dose, out of fear for side effects. By adjustment of the dose and treatment of the akathisia in the present patients, therapeutic effect could be improved.

**Conclusions:** Special attention should be given from the point of view of prevention in General Mental Hospitals to identify this special subgroup of patients in advance. Plasma level monitoring favours the doctor-patient relationship.