

Long-Acting Injectable Antipsychotics Vs. Oral Antipsychotics in Treatment Adherence: Efficiency and Equity of Care

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Purpose

The purpose of this DNP project is to compare if medication treatment adherence is greater in clients with schizophrenia who utilize oral antipsychotics (OAP) Vs. long-acting injectable antipsychotics medication (LAI).

Specific Aims

- Determine whether LAIs result in greater medication compliance compared to OAP's
- Monitor effects of treatment compliance between persons receiving LAIs vs. OAPs
- Examine hospital readmission rates, emergency room (ER) visits, prescription fills in patients medicated with LAIs in contrast to OAPs.
- Correlate number of psychotic episodes with the number of patients medicated with OAPs vs. LAIs.

Background

Treatment compliance in patients with schizophrenia present with unique challenges

Challenges to OAP include:

- medication side effects
- lack in ability to obtain medications, resulting in missing doses
- greater risk for exacerbation of illness
- Prospect of a future psychotic event

Consequence of relapse in mental health

- Considerable risk for the need of re-stabilization in acute care, or admission to in-patient setting.
- Relapse causes further brain changes resulting in poorer patient outcomes

Medication Non-Compliance

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Background: Consequence of Psychotic Break

Stabilization

Medication Non-Compliance

Psychosis

Brain changes due to psychotic break

ER visits, hospitalization, admission to acute care, in-patient setting for re-stabilization

Methods

15 high quality research articles were included in this scoping review.

- Articles were searched using databases PubMed, EBSCO, & Medline
- Literature search was conducted during the time period August 2021 – November 2022
- Publication dates range from 2016-2022

A level of evidence synthesis table and a level of evidence outcomes table were created.

- Findings were synthesized
- Outcomes were summarized
- Other benefits of LAI therapy vs. OAP in treatment process of schizophrenia was included in this scoping review

Results

This scoping review found that in addition to increased treatment adherence, LAIs were superior to OAPs in other ways in treatment of the disease process of schizophrenia.

Other benefits found in LAI vs. OAP in treatment of schizophrenia (See table below, results from articles summarized):

- Decreased rates of inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations (IH)
- Decreased emergency room visits (ER), and relapse rates (RR)
- Increased antipsychotic prescription fills (PF)
- Improved quality of life (QOL)
- Shorter lengths of hospital stay (LOS)

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Results

LAI vs. OAP	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
(PA)	↑	↑	NE	↑	↑	NE	↑	↑	—	NE	↑	↑	↑	NE	↑
(IH)	↓	NE	NE	↓	NE	↓	NE	NE	—	↓	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE
(QOL)	NR	NE	↑	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	↑	NE
(ER)	NR	NE	NE	↓	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE
(LOS)	—	NE	NE	↓	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE
(PF)	NR	↑	NE	↑	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	↑	NE	NE	NE	NE
(RR)	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	↓	NE	NE	NE	↓	NE	NE

Implications for Practice

According to this scoping review LAIs are superior to OAPs in clients with schizophrenia.

Findings Suggest:

- Patient adherence to medication is improved
- Decrease in number of ER visits due to symptoms of psychosis
- Hospital readmission rates reduced
- Improvements observed in length of stay (LOS) for mental health care services
- Education should be given to both providers and clients regarding LAIs
- Early initiation of LAIs can improve patient outcomes
- Using LAIs as first-line treatment should be considered
- Many benefits to this type of therapy

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