COST EFFECTIVENESS OF AMISULPRID IN THE TREATMENT OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

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OBJECTIVES: To estimate cost-effectiveness of various therapy scenarios of treating schizophrenia with amisulprid (Solian), a medicine of 2nd generation, in comparison with haloperidol.

METHODS: Cost-effectiveness decision model was prepared. Treatment with amisulprid vs haloperidol was compared in following scenarios: 1—amisulprid vs haloperidol (with change for risperidon in case of recurrence in any arm) 2—amisulprid vs haloperidol for 1 year (as first line medicine) followed by treatment with new atypical medicine (olanzapina or risperidon) in case of recurrence. The target population was patients suffered from chronic schizophrenia, at the moment of exacerbation of disease. Analysis was performed from the payers` perspective (the National Health Budget and patient), with a time horizon of 1 year. Estimates of effectiveness were expressed with QALY (quality adjusted life years). Following parameters were considered: risk of extrapyramidal symptoms, recurrence, suicide and rates of compliance. Costs of medicines (first line therapy with amisulprid or haloperidol and possibly second line therapy with olanzapina or risperidon in case of recurrence in haloperidol arm), correcting therapy with olanzapina or rispridone in case of recurrence), treatment of EPS, hospitalisation due to recurrence and outpatient consultations were taken into account.

RESULTS: In the scenario 1 cost of 1 QALY due to replacing standard first line therapy with haloperidol by amisulprid is 1601 PLN. In scenario 2, using amisulprid during one year instead of haloperidol as first line therapy followed by olanzapina in case of recurrence, brings additional costs of 275 PLN and gives additional QALY 0.056 year. Cost of quality adjusted life year is 4935 PLN.

CONCLUSION: Treatment of schizophreria with amisulprid during whole year, instead of haloperidol as first line therapy followed by risperidon in case of recurrence, is a cost effective therapy.