

THE EFFECTS OF VALPROATE ON HOSTILITY AND IMPULSIVITY AMONG PATIENTS WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA

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Objective: It is generally expected that adjunctive valproates can reduce aggressive and impulsive behavior. The study compared the specific antiagitation, antihostility and antiimpulsivity effects of atypical (clozapine, risperidone) or typical (haloperidol) antipsychotic therapy with valproate adjunctive treatment to mentioned antipsychotics among schizophrenic, schizophreniform or schizoaffective patients experiencing an acute psychotic episode.

Methods: Improvement in agitation on BPRS, agitation, impulsivity and hostility score of PANSS were the principal outcome measures and covariates included positive symptoms of schizophrenia. Treatment efficacy and side effects were observed by using CGI. Evaluation process was performed at the admission, after first, second third and fourth week of treatment.

Results: Adjunctive treatment with valproate was associated with statistically significant lower scores on the BPRS agitation score and PANSS impulsivity and hostility items compared with antipsychotic monotherapy, even after the first week of treatment. The effect on agitation, hostility and impulsivity was statistically independent of antipsychotic effect on other PANSS items reflecting positive symptoms of schizophrenia.

Conclusions: Reduction of the agitation, impulsive and hostile behavior occurred faster and was superior during valproate adjunctive therapy. This reduction was independent of the effect on other positive psychotic symptoms.

Key word: schizophrenia, mood stabilizers, valproate, carbamazepine, agitation, hostility.

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