

Differences in the use of drugs for the treatment of somatic complications between psychiatric out- and inpatients

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Abstract

Objective: Psychiatric treatment varies between out- and inpatients. This study examined the use of drugs for the treatment of somatic complications, focusing on possible differences in such conditions between those whose lifestyles differ. **Methods:** Differences in the rate of using drugs (drug use rate) for the treatment of somatic complications (laxatives/gastrokinetic drugs, other gastrointestinal drugs, antidiabetics, -hypertensives, -hyperuricemics, -hyperlipidemics, diuretics, cardiovascular drugs, antasthmatics, and antiosteoporotics) between out- and inpatients were analyzed after adjusting for the gender, age, and antipsychotic dose. **Results:** Significant differences were observed only in the laxative/gastrokinetic drug use rate. **Discussion:** While psychiatric patients suffered from insufficient exercise and stress due to closed environments, medical professionals tended to treat inpatients in severe conditions and use high-dose antipsychotics or -cholinergics with increased doses of laxatives/gastrokinetic drugs in fear of paralytic ileus. This may have resulted in a vicious circle in which the gastric function decreases, promoting laxative/gastrokinetic drug use. Tottori J. Clin. Res. 7(2), 93-100, 2016

Key Words: type of treatment, laxatives/gastrokinetic drugs, exercise, stress, long-term high-dose administration

Introduction

In psychiatry, treatment varies between out- and inpatients showing lifestyle differences. While the former are allowed to freely perform their activities, the latter face activity limitations to a greater or lesser extent even in the case of voluntary hospitalization. Due to such differences, somatic complications are also likely to vary between them. However, to the present, differences in their somatic complications have not been reported, except for the finding that such conditions varied between psychiatric inpatients on closed and open wards¹⁾.

This study analyzed differences in the rate of using drugs (drug use rate) for the treatment of somatic complications between out- and inpatients after adjusting for the sex, age, and antipsychotic dose.

Methods

Subjects

The study involved 492 (as of September 1, 2013) out- and 85 (as of October 31, 2013) inpatients with schizophrenia spectrum disorders treated at the National Hospital Organization Tottori Medical Center (the study facility).

Methods

From medical records, the following data were collected for both out- and inpatients: gender, age, status of psychotropic use, and use/non-use of drugs for the treatment of somatic complications (laxatives/gastrokinetic drugs, other gastrointestinal drugs, antidiabetics, -hypertensives, -hyperuricemics, -hyperlipidemics, diuretics, cardiovascular drugs, antasthmatics, and antiosteoporotics).

For each type of psychotropic, the medians, means, and standard deviations of the following items were calculated: antipsychotics: dosing