Objective: To evaluate trends in the use of antipsychotic drugs in Lithuania between 2003 and 2005 years.

Methods: The data on total sales of antipsychotic drugs in Lithuania over three years (2003-2005) were obtained from IMS Health Inc. Drugs were classified according to the Anatomic Therapeutic Chemical system, use was quantified in terms of defined daily doses. Data were calculated by DDD methodology, expressed in DDDs per 1.000 inhabitants/day. The pharmacoeconomic analysis was performed by cost minimization and reference price methodology.

Results: The total antipsychotics consumption increased by 16% over three years period reaching the value of 5,5 DDD/1000 inhabitants/day. Use of conventional antipsychotics has increased by 3%, atypical antipsychotics by 34%. The expenditures of antipsychotics has reached 39 mln Litas (in 2005), of which 48% was costs for atypical antipsychotic agents. Setting the reference price of risperidone (according to the meta-analysis results of effectiveness) for atypical antipsychotics it would be possible to rationalize schizophrenia treatment using 10,68 mln Litas extra money (1€ = 3,4528 Lt).

Conclusions: The use of total antipsychotic drugs continues to increase because of the increased use of atypical antipsychotics and some conventional antipsychotics. According to the meta-analysis results risperidone is the most effective drug for schizophrenia treatment. Considering the similar efficacy of other atypical antipsychotics and the increased high expenditures of atypical antipsychotics it is extremely important to consider the cost-effectiveness of antipsychotics. Performed cost-minimization analysis using the reference-based pricing estimated the possible reduction of total antipsychotics expenditures by 28%, the possible schizophrenia treatment rationalization.

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Evaluation study on patient's attitude towards the psychiatric treatment

J.A. Aguado, O. Segurado, R.M. San Miguel. *Department of Psychiatry, Acute Unit, Benito Menni, Valladolid, Spain*

Objective: To evaluate attitude and adhesion of psychiatric patients towards its treatment, specially psychotic patients with neuroleptic treatment

Material and method: This is an open study on a population of 36 hospitalised patients in Acute Psychiatric Unit at Hospitality Center Benito Menni of Valladolid (Spain). Basic social-demographic information, characteristics of disease and treatment of each patient, their answers to an own questionnaire of quality assistance and scores derived from the application of Drug Attitude Inventory (DAI) has been collected in a protocolized form. These scores has been analysed with SSPS statistical program, crossing variables such as diagnosis or treatment.

Results: Some results are detailed as follows:

Male 38,9%, female 61,1%. Mean age 52,89.Usually single 50% that live alone 54,6% in urban habitat 65,6%, majority with schizophrenia 27,8%, followed by depressive spectrum 22,2%., with a combination of anxiolytics (lormetazepam + lorazepam) 33,3%, and risperidone (22,2%) or olanzapine (27,8%) in most cases.

After analysis we found statistical significance in differences by gender – better in case of women -, diagnosis – better attitudes with higher scores in patients with non psychotic disorder - and atypical neuroleptic treatment.

Conclusions:

1. Adherence and better attitudes were more likely in female patients, also schizophrenic, probably due to their caregivers role in society.
2. As expected, non psychotic patients with higher conscious of illness are more likely to see treatment as useful.
3. Atypical neuroleptics seems to be better in order to achieve proper treatment adherence

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Being widowed - a high risk period for suicide

V. Ajdacic-Gross [1], E. Gadola [1], C. Lauber [1], M. Bopp [2], F. Gutzwiller [2], W. Rossler [1]. [1] *Psychiatric University Hospital Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland* [2] *Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland*

Objectives: To address and better understand the problem of high suicide rates in widows and widowers.

Methods: Sex and age specific suicide data collated by marital group were extracted from Swiss mortality statistics for the period 1991-2003. The mortality in the first week / month / year of widowhood was calculated based on person-year calculations.

Results: Cross-sectional analysis by sex and age-group confirms the existence of different suicide rate patterns according to marital status. Moreover, the profiles of suicide methods differ. In particular, suicide methods which may be associated with impulsive suicides, such as firearms or poisoning, are relatively frequent in the widowed. The suicide risk of widowed persons is extremely high in the days and weeks immediately after bereavement.

Conclusions: Suicide risk and suicide behavior varies systematically according to marital status. In particular, widows and widowers emerge as a group suitable for preventive methods because of the existence of a time window when there is increased risk. Moreover, widowed persons are a clear-cut risk group under the aegis of undertakers, priests and perhaps general practitioners.

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Prediction of antipsychotics gene targets by integration of genomic, evolutionary, and gene expression data

A. Ambesi-Impiombato [1,2], F. Panariello [1], A. de Bartolomeis [1], G. Muscettola [1]. [1] *Department of Neuroscience, University School of Medicine Federico II, Naples, Italy* [2] *Telethon Institute of Genetics and Medicine (Tigem), Naples, Italy*

Background and aims: Control of gene expression is essential for the establishment and maintenance of all cell types, and is involved in pathogenesis of several diseases. Accurate computational predictions of transcription factor regulation may thus help in understanding complex diseases, including mental disorders in which dysregulation of neural gene expression is thought to play a key role. However, predictions via bioinformatics tools are typically poorly specific.

Methods: We have developed and tested a computational workflow to computationally predict Transcription Factor Binding Sites on proximal promoters of vertebrate genes. The computational framework was applied to groups of genes found to respond to antipsychotic drugs. Our approach for the prediction of regulatory elements is based on a search for known regulatory motifs retrieved from TRANSFAC, on DNA sequences of genes' promoters. Predictions are thus weighted by conservation. These predictions are further refined using a logistic regression to integrate data from co-regulated genes.

Results: Consistent results were obtained on a large simulated dataset consisting of 5460 simulated promoter sequences, and on

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