Prevalence of Agitation-Hostility during acute episodes of patients with schizophrenia

**Orta J1, Riesgo Y2, Veitez P2, Alonso B3, Barber P1**

1. Hospital Sant Joan de Déu (Barcelona)
2. Medical Department, Bristol-Myers Squibb
3. Otsuka Pharmaceuticals

**BACKGROUND**

Information about the prevalence of aggressive behaviour in schizophrenia and its management is not available in Europe. The data available comes from studies conducted on small samples, focused on pharmacological interventions.

**OBJECTIVE**

To document the prevalence of agitation-hostility among patients with schizophrenia and its management strategies in Spain.

**METHOD**

Cross-sectional study during hospitalisation in acute units. The selection criteria included patients diagnosed with schizophrenia according to DSM-IV-TR visiting the hospital for admission. Information was recorded about clinical profile, sociodemographic data, employment status, clinical status was recorded according to the specific Clinical Global Impression scale for schizophrenia (CGI-SCH). Aggressiveness and hostility were evaluated upon admission by the score on the PANSS-EC subscale, and aggressive behaviour during hospitalisation were evaluated by the Overt Aggression Scale (OAS). Therapeutic management was recorded upon admission, during hospitalisation and upon discharge.

**RESULTS**

745 patients were included by 194 investigators in 113 acute psychiatric units. Agitation or aggression with aggressiveness were the most common reasons for admission. Prevalence of agitation-aggressiveness in Spain was estimated at 23.5% of the studied patients upon admission and 22.1% of the studied patients during the post-acute period. During the post-acute period, the most common aggressive episodes were verbal aggressions and aggressions against others, although with low levels of intensity.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The prevalence of agitation-hostility in patients in psychiatric hospitalisation units is of interest and represented at a lower than expected percentage. This study could be useful for developing a consensus document concerning clinical practice in specialised acute units.

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**REFERENCES**