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Efficacy and tolerability of low-dose donepezil in schizophrenia



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Efficacy and tolerability of low-dose donepezil in schizophrenia.

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Abstract

There have been many advancements in the pharmacologic treatment of **schizophrenia**; however, negative symptoms and cognitive impairment remain an intractable part of this illness. **Donepezil** is an anticholinesterase inhibitor with cognitive enhancing effects approved for the treatment of Alzheimer disease that has shown some benefit in the treatment of **schizophrenia**. In this study, 15 inpatients at a state hospital with a history of **schizophrenia** were administered **donepezil** in a randomized, double-blind, crossover design. Neurocognitive testing and psychiatric ratings were completed at baseline and at regular intervals for 18 weeks. Results indicated that **donepezil** treatment was associated with modest improvements in psychiatric symptoms and improved verbal learning. These results suggest that **donepezil** may be helpful as adjunctive therapy for the treatment of psychiatric symptoms and cognitive impairment in a subgroup of schizophrenic patients.

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