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[Efficacy of adjunctive donepezil for cognitive impairments in patients with schizophrenia].

[Article in Italian]

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Abstract

Schizophrenia generally manifests **cognitive** disorders of subjects affected by this illness. Acetylcholine is the main neurotransmitter involved in the modulation of **cognitive** processes as attention, memory and executive functions. The aim of our study is to examine the effects of anticholinesterasic drugs in addition to atypical antipsychotics on **cognitive** functions in subjects with **schizophrenia**. Participant to the study 14 subjects affected by **schizophrenia**. Subjects have been divided in two sub-groups on the grounds of pharmacological treatment used. A first group (N= 8) it's been treated only with risperidone (monotherapy group); the second one (N=7) it's been treated with **donepezil** in addition to risperidone (**donepezil**+ risperidone group). The group treated with **donepezil** + risperidone evidenced, after 3 and 6 months, statistically significant improvements in attention, in executive functions and in understanding first order Theory of Mind. Our findings are in agreement with those reported by MacEwan et al. (2001). Even if preliminary, our results prove the effectiveness of using anticholinesterasic drugs in addition to atypical antipsychotic treatment, especially in improving attentive functioning.

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