

## P-1242 - SCHIZOPHRENIA THROUGH THE CARERS' EYES: RESULTS OF A EUROPEAN SURVEY

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**Introduction:** Schizophrenia is a serious mental illness that carries a significant burden for families providing care.

**Objectives:** The ADHES carers' survey canvassed opinions of families/friends of patients with schizophrenia across Europe.

**Aim:** To ascertain carer attitudes towards schizophrenia, its treatment and treatment adherence.

**Methods:** The survey was conducted from January-April 2011 in 16 European countries, comprising 10 questions relating to the respondents' understanding of schizophrenia, attitudes towards schizophrenia treatments, and perception of the family's/friend's role in supporting patients with schizophrenia.

**Results:** Results were obtained from 138 respondents. 76% of carers recognized the importance of medication to help patients get better, improve their quality of life (77%) and relationships (74%). 67% of carers responded that they believed schizophrenia treatment damages patients' general health. Two-thirds of the carers reported that treatment adherence was a burden for the patient and over a third of carers indicated that it was a daily struggle to get patients to take their medication. 50% of carers considered the benefits offered by long-acting injectable antipsychotics as very/quite important and thus, could provide a valuable tool in improving treatment adherence. 92% of carers agreed on the importance of family support to boost treatment adherence with education/information deemed important for families and patients alike.

**Conclusion:** Carers recognize the issues they face in caring for patients with schizophrenia and their role in improving partial/non-adherence to medication, especially to avoid suboptimal treatment outcomes. The important role of family carers should be considered by healthcare professionals when treating patients with schizophrenia.