

with some protective effects. Findings on the mediating neural correlates point to the 5-HT system, but remain inconclusive regarding LD. Potential benefits of endogenous lithium as a neurobiological trace element on neurobehavioral functioning especially in high-risk individuals would have public health implications.

P0331

Trends in mood stabilizers use in an acute psychiatric unit

I. Zaera Cuadrado, M.N. Rodriguez, C. Ramos Vidal, F. Romero Marmaneu, M. Villar Garcia. *Consortio Hospitalario Provincial de Castellon, Castellon, Spain*

Background and Aims: In the last decades there has been a steady increase in the usage of mood stabilizers (MS); especially for prevention of affective disorders and those illnesses with important loss of impulse control. Our objective was to evaluate trends in the use of MS in our Unit.

Methods: 113 patients prescribed a MS when admitted, or discharged, from our acute unit, were selected between March 2007 and August 2007. Clinical and demographic relevant variables were taken into consideration. Diagnoses were divided into 10 different categories. Statistical methods were used when appropriated.

Results: 40.37% of all the admitted patients were taking MS (100% of all the patients with Borderline Personality Disorders, BPD; 80% of all the patients with Bipolar Disorders, BD). Topiramate (40.71%), Oxcarbamazepine (27.43%) and Lamotrigine (23.89%), were the most used MS. In BD, the use of lithium was common but usually in combination therapy. Topiramate was used for BPD and Lamotrigine for unipolar depression. The largest increase of prescription during admission was observed with oxcarbamazepine.

Conclusions: Nearly a third of the patients admitted received MS, which indicates a high prevalence of use. Lithium remains the first choice MS for the treatment of BD, usually used in association with another MS.

New MS are widely used, especially in disorders which include impulsivity, probably due to a better profile of adverse reactions/interactions than classic MS. However more solid evidence of their efficacy is needed.

Poster Session II: Memory and Cognitive Disorders

P0332

Activity of Acid Sphingomyelinase in relation to Hippocampal volume and memory function in young healthy females

P. Alexopoulos, M. Horn, S. Maus, T. Richter-Schmidinger, M. Reichel, C. Rhein, J. Kornhuber. *Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, University Hospital of Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander Universitaet Erlangen- Nuernberg, Erlangen, Germany*

Background: Acid sphingomyelinase (A-SMase) is a glycoprotein that functions as a lysosomal hydrolase, catalysing the degradation of sphingomyelin to phosphorylcholine and ceramide. Several lines

of evidence suggest its central role in all three types of apoptosis. The activation of neuronal A-SMase has been shown to be important in the stress-induced apoptotic death of hippocampal neurons. The aim of the present study was to investigate the association between the activity of A-SMase, hippocampal volume and memories function in healthy young volunteers.

Materials and Methods: The activity of A-SMase was measured in peripheral blood mononuclear cells of 19 healthy female students of the University of Erlangen- Nuernberg ($26,32 \pm 3,95$ years old, Body mass: $22,29 \pm 2,63$ kgr/m²). The hippocampal formation was outlined in high-resolution anatomical magnetic resonance imaging data. The memory function was assessed with the Inventory for Memory diagnostics (Inventar zur Gedächtnisdiagnostik). Correlations between continuous variables were examined, using Spearman's rank correlation coefficient.

Results: The activity of A-SMase did not correlate with hippocampal volume and memory performance.

Conclusions: These findings indicate that the activity of the A-SMase influences neither the brain hippocampal volume of young healthy females, nor their memory performance.

P0333

Delirium in a consultation liaison psychiatry unit of a general hospital

J.B. Pereira¹, M.I. Rocha², A. Cavalheiro², A. Lopes¹, S.M. Moreira¹. ¹Liaison Psychiatry Unit, Santo Antonio General Hospital, Oporto, Portugal ²Psychiatry Unit, Magalhaes Lemos Hospital, Oporto, Portugal

Background: Delirium is an organic mental disorder defined as a confusional state, attention deficit, and disorganised thinking, with a fluctuating course and acute development. It is a common disorder occurring in general hospital patients. Underlying causes are multiple: medical, surgical, and drug related.

Aims: Evaluation of one year requests in a Liaison Psychiatric Unit in a general Hospital due to Delirium/Agitation of inpatients.

Methods: Retrospective study of requests due to delirium/agitation (inpatients) to Liaison Psychiatric Unit, during the year of 2006. Requests were made to the Unit through a screening questionnaire previously elaborated to hospital services. It contained information about: social demographic, requiring services, medical diagnostic/information, referral psychiatric symptoms. Evaluation of mismatch of initial referral and final diagnosis was made.

Results: Delirium diagnoses accounted for 8,87% of the total patients attended in this Unit during 2006. The age average was 66,75 years. 56% were male. Majority of patients were referred by Medicine 3,94% and Surgery 4,93% (N=406) requests. In 75% of the cases of Delirium, the referral symptoms were psychomotor agitation. Psychopharmacologic procedures were made in 77,78% of cases; 55,56% used antipsychotic, 27,78% benzodiazepines. In 72,22% of all cases, there wasn't any previous psychiatric history.

Conclusions: The number of requests for delirium was inferior to most of described series. Most of cases were characterized by psychomotor agitation. Psychopharmacologic procedures were necessary for most of cases. When request was made, diagnostic accuracy of medical practitioners was high. Data supports the statement that delirium is more frequent in Surgical patients.