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LIVER FUNCTION TESTS AND ONE YEAR RISPERIDONE TREATMENT IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

A. Erdogan¹, N. Yurteri¹, A.E. Tufan², H. Ankarali³, E. Demirci¹

¹Zonguldak Karaelmas University, Medical Faculty, Zonguldak, ²Elazig Mental Health Hospital, Elazig, ³Duzce University, Medical Faculty, Duzce, Turkey

Objective: Risperidone is an atypical antipsychotic agent, despite its many advantages and widespread use, there is increasing attention to the adverse effects associated with long-term exposure to this drug. We aimed to investigate the changes in the liver function tests (LFTs) associated with one year risperidone treatment in children and adolescents.

Methods: One hundred youths who treated with risperidone more than one year were included in the study. For this study, patients' baseline and follow-up weight and hepatobiliary function tests including alanine aminotransferases (ALT) and aspartat aminotransferases (AST), gamma glutamyl transerase (GGT), alkaline phosphatase (ALP) and serum bilirubin levels were measured baseline, after the treatment period of six months and one year.

Results: Asymptomatic liver function test abnormalities mostly ALP elevation was found in subjects treated with risperidone. The mean levels of liver enzymes and billuribin of the patients were significantly higher after one year of treatment than the baseline. Also the mean levels of liver enzymes and billuribin of the patients were significantly higher after one year of treatment than the six months. There was significant association between changes in weight, risperidone dose and liver enzymes and billuribin levels.

Conclusions: These findings suggest that risperidone treatment in the long term commonly leads to liver function changes however it rarely may induce a serious hepatic toxicity at therapeutic doses in children and adolescents.