

Display Settings: AbstractSend to:

Schizophr Res. 2010 Jun;119(1-3):1-10. doi: 10.1016/j.schres.2010.02.1071. Epub 2010 Mar 26.

Who needs antipsychotic medication in the earliest stages of psychosis? A reconsideration of benefits, risks, neurobiology and ethics in the era of early intervention.

Francey SM¹, Nelson B, Thompson A, Parker AG, Kerr M, Macneil C, Fraser R, Hughes F, Crisp K, Harrigan S, Wood SJ, Berk M, McGorry PD.

Author information

¹Orygen Youth Health, 35 Poplar Road Locked Bag 10, Parkville, Victoria 3052, Australia.

Abstract

In recent years, early intervention services have attempted to identify people with a first episode of psychosis as early as possible, reducing the duration of untreated psychosis and changing the timing of delivery of interventions. The logic of early intervention is based partly on accessing people in a more treatment responsive stage of illness in which psychosocial damage is less extensive, and partly on **remediating a putatively active process of neuroprogression** that leads to pathophysiological, symptomatic and structural changes, hence improving symptomatic and functional outcomes. However, as in other areas of health care, earlier identification of new patients may mean that different treatment approaches are indicated. The corollary of early detection is that the sequence and complexon of treatment strategies for first episode psychosis has been reevaluated. **Examples include the minimal effective dosage of antipsychotic medication and** the content of psychosocial interventions. With the substantial reductions of DUP now seen in many early psychosis services, based on clinical staging and stepped care principles, it is even possible that the immediate introduction of antipsychotic medication may not be necessary for all first episode psychosis cases, but that potentially safer interventions, which may be more acceptable to many patients, such as comprehensive psychosocial intervention, may constitute effective treatment at least for a subgroup of patients. In this paper, we review this theoretical background and describe a randomised controlled trial currently underway at the Early Psychosis Prevention and Intervention Centre (EPPIC) in Melbourne designed to test outcomes for first episode psychosis patients in response to two different treatments: intensive psychosocial intervention plus antipsychotic medication versus intensive psychosocial intervention plus placebo. This is a theoretically and pragmatically novel study in that it will provide evidence as to whether intensive psychosocial intervention alone is sufficient for a subgroup of first episode psychosis patients in a specialised early intervention service, and provide a test of the heuristic clinical staging model. By experimentally manipulating duration of untreated psychosis, the study will also provide a methodologically strong test of the effect of delaying the introduction of antipsychotic medication, as well as helping to disentangle the effects of antipsychotic medications and the putative neurobiological processes associated with brain changes and symptom profiles in the early phase of psychotic disorders. The study has been carefully crafted to satisfy critical ethical demands in this challenging research domain.

Crown Copyright (c) 2010. Published by Elsevier B.V. All rights reserved.

PMID: 20347270 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



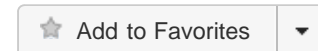
Publication Types, MeSH Terms, Substances

LinkOut - more resources

Full text links



Save items



Related citations in PubMed

Review [Therapeutic strategies in the first psy [Encephale. 1999]

Three year outcomes of an early int [Psychiatr Danub. 2007]

Review Royal Australian and Ne [Aust N Z J Psychiatry. 2005]

Early intervention and a five year follow [Schizophr Res. 2001]

Review [Antipsychotics in bipolar disord [Encephale. 2004]

See reviews...

See all...

Cited by 8 PubMed Central articles

Review The role of long-acting 1er Adv Psychopharmacol. 2014]

PAKs inhibitors ameliorate Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2014]

Tolerability of initiation doses of 1er Adv Psychopharmacol. 2011]

See all...

Related information

Related Citations


Clinical Trial Review

MedGen

Cited in PMC

Recent Activity

Turn Off Clear

 Who needs antipsychotic medication in the ear PubMed

PubMed Commons


0 comments


[PubMed Commons home](#)

[How to join PubMed Commons](#)

 [First-episode psychosis: an inflammatory state?](#) PubMed

 [Related Articles by Review for PubMed \(Select](#) PubMed

 [\[Brain imaging of first-episode psychosis\]](#). PubMed

 [Approaching a network connectivity-driven](#) PubMed

[See more...](#)

You are here: [NCBI](#) > [Literature](#) > [PubMed](#)

[Write to the Help Desk](#)

GETTING STARTED

- [NCBI Education](#)
- [NCBI Help Manual](#)
- [NCBI Handbook](#)
- [Training & Tutorials](#)

RESOURCES

- [Chemicals & Bioassays](#)
- [Data & Software](#)
- [DNA & RNA](#)
- [Domains & Structures](#)
- [Genes & Expression](#)
- [Genetics & Medicine](#)
- [Genomes & Maps](#)
- [Homology](#)
- [Literature](#)
- [Proteins](#)
- [Sequence Analysis](#)
- [Taxonomy](#)
- [Training & Tutorials](#)
- [Variation](#)

POPULAR

- [PubMed](#)
- [Bookshelf](#)
- [PubMed Central](#)
- [PubMed Health](#)
- [BLAST](#)
- [Nucleotide](#)
- [Genome](#)
- [SNP](#)
- [Gene](#)
- [Protein](#)
- [PubChem](#)

FEATURED

- [Genetic Testing Registry](#)
- [PubMed Health](#)
- [GenBank](#)
- [Reference Sequences](#)
- [Gene Expression Omnibus](#)
- [Map Viewer](#)
- [Human Genome](#)
- [Mouse Genome](#)
- [Influenza Virus](#)
- [Primer-BLAST](#)
- [Sequence Read Archive](#)

NCBI INFORMATION

- [About NCBI](#)
- [Research at NCBI](#)
- [NCBI News](#)
- [NCBI FTP Site](#)
- [NCBI on Facebook](#)
- [NCBI on Twitter](#)
- [NCBI on YouTube](#)

Copyright | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Browsers](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Contact](#)
 National Center for Biotechnology Information, U.S. National Library of Medicine
 8600 Rockville Pike, Bethesda MD, 20894 USA

