

FACTORS IMPORTANT FOR COMPLIANCE AMONG CROATIAN PATIENTS SUFFERING FROM SCHIZOPHRENIA - HOW TO IMPROVE PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES IN CROATIA

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SUMMARY

Factors important for compliance among Croatian patients suffering from schizophrenia - How to improve psychiatric services in Croatia?

Key words: *compliance – adherence - treatment - schizophrenia*

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In our paper we analyzed the results of the questionnaire for compliance and insight into the disease among chronic schizophrenic patients and their carers in Croatia. We interviewed thirty female patients and fifteen carers.

We found out that patients in general have poor knowledge about the illness, symptoms and side effects of medicine which is similar to results of other studies. Patients stop medicine often, which result in exacerbation of the disease (in average 10 hospitalisations during 12 years of disease) mainly because of checking whether they have been cured and of side effects of medication. Two third was diagnosed during the period of a year from the onset of the disease, and one third between one and five years.

The most valuable information they get about illness and about drugs is from psychiatrists and from direction in medicine box. Information from other medical staff was estimated the same as of non- professional people, e.g. friends and family. Over 70 percent patients did not have contact with educational material like leaflets, only 3% use Internet. Both groups were completely unsatisfied with the role of the media. Stigma problem was denied by the group of patients but reported by carers in a way that 40% still hide from someone about the illness of the family member.

According to the results of the questionnaire we detected some good points in care of the patients, and found new ideas how to improve psychiatric services in Croatia.

Editor's note.

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