



Does level of care, sex, age, or choice of drug influence adherence to treatment with antipsychotics?

<https://arctichealth.org/en/permalink/ahliterature94279>

Author: Castberg Ingrid
Westin Andreas Austgulen
Spigset Olav

Author Affiliation: Department of Psychiatry, St. Olavs University Hospital, Trondheim, Norway. ingrid.castberg@ntnu.no

Source: J Clin Psychopharmacol. 2009 Oct;29(5):415-20

Date: Oct-2009

Language: English

Publication Type: Article

Abstract: Rates of nonadherence during treatment with antipsychotics have been found to vary in a wide range from 20% to 90%. The aim of the present study was to investigate the influence of inpatient versus outpatient status on the adherence to treatment with olanzapine and clozapine. In the period from 1999 to 2007, olanzapine and clozapine were the 2 most frequently analyzed antipsychotics at the Department of Clinical Pharmacology at St. Olavs University Hospital, Trondheim, Norway, with more than 24,000 and more than 18,000 samples, respectively. In total, 111 patients on olanzapine and 95 patients on clozapine had provided samples in both the inpatient and outpatient settings and were included in the study. The primary outcome variable was the serum concentration-to-dose ratio (C/D ratio), that is, the serum drug concentration per milligram of drug given. For olanzapine, the C/D ratio in the outpatient setting was 10.7% lower than in the inpatient setting ($P = 0.013$). No such difference was found for clozapine. The difference in the olanzapine group was exclusively attributed to a lower outpatient ratio in females. For clozapine, no sex influence was found. No effect of age on the C/D ratios was found either for olanzapine or for clozapine. The lower C/D ratio in females using olanzapine in the outpatient setting might imply that they, in contrast to males, are less adherent to their medication when outside hospital. For clozapine, there were no indications of differences in adherence between inpatients and outpatients.

PubMed ID: 19745639 [View in PubMed](#) 