

settings there were found no significant differences. EE presented significant positive correlation only with DP ($p < 0.0001$) and DP significant negative correlation ($p = 0.014$) with PA. Correlations between the ZDS and MBI subscales were all significant but the strength of the association was greatest with the EE subscale. The factors of age, family status, years of training, special psychiatric training, years of work as a nurse, years of work in the present setting, and number of changes of department, did not seem to effect the results.

Conclusions: The role of nurses in the care of mental patient has not been fully upgraded in Greece, because of some functioning problems of the therapeutic team in the psychiatric setting. In the present study, the community-based staff did not present higher levels of burnout, as reported by the international literature reports. It is possible that in our country the particularly ideologically charged importance of participation in such settings still plays a significant role.

P02.212

EFFECTS OF CHILD HOMICIDE IN THE QUALITY OF MATERNAL CARE: A CASE REPORT

I. Savvidou*, V. Bozikas, A. Pitsavas, A. Karavatos. *A' Psychiatric Clinic of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

The aim of the present study is to investigate the consequences of an offspring homicide of the past, in the present maternal care. A case of a mother with bipolar disorder who murdered her first child and attempted to murder her second one, while suffering a depressive phase of the illness, is presented here. Her marriage broke down and her ex-husband took the custody of her surviving child. At the present time, she is raising another child from her second marriage. Relations with her children, her husband, and the social environment are discussed. The question of compatibility of a mental illness with safe and adequate child raising is examined. Furthermore, risk factors for child homicide, as psychiatric history, maternal age, child's temperament and violent partner are reviewed.

P02.213

TOPIRAMATE IN THE TREATMENT OF MANIA

V. Bozikas*, P. Petrikis, A. Karavatos. *A' Psychiatric Clinic of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*

Background: Topiramate seems to be the most effective new antiepileptic drug in the treatment of chronic focal and secondarily generalized seizures. It blocks sodium and calcium channels and AMPA/kainate-gated ion channels, positively modulates GABA_A receptors, and weakly inhibits carbonic anhydrase. Open label studies and case series describing the successful use of the drug as a treatment for bipolar disorder have been reported. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the efficacy of topiramate in the treatment of manic symptoms.

Method: Four patients with bipolar disorder I and the most recent episode manic, as well as one with mood disorder due to multiple sclerosis with manic features, were acutely admitted to our clinic, and were treated with topiramate. To the patient with the secondary mania topiramate, was added to the existing therapy with carbamazepine. The other patients received topiramate as monotherapy. Manic symptoms were being assessed by Bech and Rafaelsen Mania Scale (BRMS) and Clinical Global Impressions of Improvement Scale (CGI-I) every week for 3 to 12 weeks.

Results: The mean BRMS score declined from 24.2 (range 18–33) to 7 (range 0–12). According to CGI-I four patients showed a score 1 (marked improvement) or 2 (moderate improvement), and

one patient a score of 3 (minimum improvement). Mean topiramate dosage was 260 mg/day (range 150–450 mg/day). Three patients in the monotherapy group needed zuclopenthixol acutard 100 mg/48 hrs i.m. not more than 6 days and four supplementation with lorazepam due to psychomotor excitement. Anorexia and weight loss were adverse effects reported by two patients, whereas one of them finally dropped out.

Conclusions: These preliminary findings suggest a possible role for topiramate in the treatment of acute manic episodes. Larger controlled trials are needed to confirm the role of topiramate in treatment of bipolar disorder.

P02.214

THERAPEUTIC EFFICACY AND METABOLIC PECULIARITIES IN PATIENTS WITH DEPRESSIVE DISORDERS UNDER TIANEPTINE (TIA) AND SERTRALINE (SER) TREATMENT

N. Maximova*, E. Misionzhnik, O. Vertogradova, M. Usbekov. *Research Institute of Psychiatry, Moscow, Russia*

The aim of investigation was to compare the therapeutic efficacy of TIA and SER in patients with depressive disorders with the dynamics of some biochemical parameters.

Methods: Subjects of research were 43 patients (age 18–50 years) who fulfilled criteria for anxious depression (ICD-10, F3). 21 patients were treated with TIA (37.5–45 mg/day), 22- with SER (50–175 mg/day) for 2–4 weeks. Efficacy of treatment was evaluated by Hamilton Depressive, Hamilton Anxiety and Sheehan Patients Rated Anxiety Scales.

Results and Conclusion: Therapeutic efficacy of TIA and SER treatment was 61.9 and 68.1% respectively. In responders there were significant decrease of middle molecules (MM) level in plasma and increase (tendency) of albumin binding capacity (ABC) in serum under TIA and significant increase of MM level and decrease of ABC under SER treatments. In nonresponders there were found no regularity in biochemical changes. Thus, antidepressants with different mechanisms of action on serotonin metabolism exert in responders differently directed metabolic changes.

P02.215

ADOLESCENTS AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

D. Anagnostopoulos*, H. Lazaratou, I. Amvraziadou, G. Vaslamatzis. *Community Mental Health Center Byron - Kesariani, Department of Psychiatry, University of Athens, Hellas*

Objective: To examine the psychosocial characteristics of all cases of suicide attempts that were referred to a community child and adolescent unit, during 1989–1998.

Method: Data from 28 cases of suicide attempts were evaluated for: age, sex, sociodemographic factors (socioeconomic status - SES, educational qualifications), childhood experiences (parental relationship, parental care, sexual abuse), recent traumatic life events, psychiatric morbidity, substance abuse, prior suicidal behavior (ideation, plans, threats), reference and compliance.

Results: The sample ($n = 28$) represents 1.8% of all cases first time referred ($n = 1545$). Sex: male ($n = 10$) 35%, female ($n = 18$) 65%, Age range: 12.4–18, Mean age: 15.2, SES: low 71.5%, medium 28.5%, Educational status: school failure 25%, drop outs 11%, Parental relationship: divorce 18%, family discord 35%, Poor parental care 25%, Sexual abuse 3.5%, Life events 43%, Psychiatric morbidity: depressive symptomatology 25%, neurotic-hysterical symptomatology 18%, Substance abuse 14%, Suicidal behavior

58%, Reference: self-reference 28.5%, Compliance: positive 58%, drop outs 42%.

Conclusions: All suicide attempters were adolescents. Prior suicidal behavior is the most common finding among the oilier risk factors examined. The significant existence of factors that indicate childhood adversity, social disadvantage and psychiatric morbidity seems to add significantly to an adolescent's suicide attempt. Most of the cases were referred by other medical and judicial services. None of them asked for any kind of help before. This is in accordance with the poor compliance to psychiatric management and also indicates a negative attitude towards asking and using psychiatric help. There is a need for community based suicide prevention programs using appropriate interventions in order to overcome these difficulties and approach the high risk population effectively.

P02.216

ACUTE ADMISSIONS OF FOREIGN BORN PEOPLE IN A CLOSED PSYCHIATRIC WARD

M. Ruiz Ruiz, J.M. Pena-Andreu*, J. Torres Ojeda, F. González Escalante, A. Rodríguez Rosado, P. Cano Domínguez. *Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine and University Hospital, Málaga, Spain*

(a) In studying the ecology of psychiatric disorders, it is important to consider major demographic developments: In Costa del Sol Area (Health Area #II. Málaga. Spain) from the mid-sixties until now the main demographic change has been the increase of foreign residents.

(b) The Psychiatric Unit of the University Hospital is the only referral inpatients ward of the Health Area #II, and, in this study, we examined all the foreign inpatients admitted for a period of three years (1997-1999).

(c) 115 foreign patients were hospitalized: 28% were from United Kingdom, 18% from Germany, 12% from France (76% Europeans, 8% Africans). We evaluate sociodemographic characteristics, DSM-IV diagnostics, and precipitating factors of crisis.

(d) As we can see, main part of our patients comes from more developed countries than Spain, with high educational levels (67% High School or University): This is not the immigrant sample with negative social situations and maladaptation to the new living conditions that is usually described in literature about foreign patients in psychiatric units around the world. Results are discussed.

P02.217

CLINICAL COURSE OF DEPRESSION AND PLATELET SEROTONIN UPTAKE

Z. Fišar*, I. Paclt. *Psychiatric Clinic, 1st Medical Faculty, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic*

It is obvious that adaptive response of expression of serotonin transporter (5-HTT) to long-term treatment with antidepressants performs a significant function in therapeutic action of antidepressant drugs. Relation between serotonin (5-HT) uptake to platelets and therapeutic response in patients treated with selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI) was studied. Correlation between characteristics of 5-HTT in platelets and clinical symptoms of depression is subject to determine.

The aim of our study was verification of the biochemical hypothesis of affective disorders related to both decreasing of serotonin reuptake to platelets and changes in lipid composition of plasma membranes. Blood samples from 16 depressed patients, who were never treated by antidepressants, and from 21 controls

were analysed. Tritium labelled 5-HT was used to measure maximal velocity (V_{max}) of serotonin uptake and affinity (K_{in}) of 5-HTT. HAMD and CGI scales were used to characterize clinical courses of depressive disorder. Quantities were obtained before and during the pharmacotherapy.

Contrary to all expectation we observed significantly higher values of K_m and only no significant changes in V_{max} on the day zero, when we compared depressed patients beside controls. This reflects changes in affinity of 5-HTT rather than its activity. Both K_m and V_{max} were decreased after treatment by antidepressants. It means that decreased serotonin reuptake during depression is caused rather by the decreased affinity of 5-HTT than by lowering of V_{max} . We hypothesise that affinity of 5-HTT can be changed by interactions with membrane lipids, which may be important suggestive element in the pathophysiology of depression.

Supported by grants GA UK 51/1996/C and 27/2000/C.

P02.218

CYAMEMAZINE: A REVISION OF ITS THERAPEUTICAL ANXIOLYTIC PROFILE BASED ON ITS RECENTLY DESCRIBED ANTI-SEROTONINERGIC ACTIVITY

F. Radat*, R. Garay, F. d'Alché-Birée, M. Dib. *Hôp. Pellegrin, Bordeaux; INSERM U400, School of Medicine of Créteil & Lab. Aventis, Montrouge, France*

Cyamemazine is a neuroleptic compound with sedative and anxiolytic properties. Whether the neuroleptic properties were ascribed to D2 and D4 dopamine receptor antagonism, the mechanism of the anxiolytic action remained a mystery.

Recently, binding studies have shown that cyamemazine possesses high affinity for 5HT_{2c} and 5HT₃ serotonergic receptors. Moreover, cyamemazine potently and competitively antagonizes 5HT₃ dependant contraction in isolated guinea pig ileum and 5HT₃ dependant bradycardia in rats. Finally, cyamemazine antagonizes 5HT_{2c} dependant PLC stimulation in rats caudate membranes.

Several arguments suggest that the anxiolytic activity of cyamemazine may be explained, at least in part, by its 5HT_{2c} and 5HT₃ antagonist activity. In animal models of anxiety, 5HT_{2c} and 5HT₃ receptor antagonists showed anxiolytic properties. Therapeutic trials in human are controversial as with ritanserine (5HT₂ antagonist) as with setron (5HT₃ antagonist). The paradoxical data obtained could be explained by differentiated patterns of anxiety in humans. At least the anti-impulsive activity of cyamemazine should be enlightened by 5HT₂ antagonism in spite of clear clinical trials demonstrating this link.

P02.219

ENERGY STORES IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE (AD)

F. Abalan. *Hôpital Charles Perrens, Bordeaux, France*

It has been reported that patients with AD have altered energy metabolism. We compared energy stores in patients with AD and in controls. Triceps skin fold (TSF) thickness was used to assess energy stores. TSF thickness provides an estimate of the size of the subcutaneous fat deposit which in turn provides an estimate of the extent of total body fat and thus of energy stores. Eleven subjects with AD (DSM-3 R criteria) and 11 control subjects without dementia and with MMS above 25 were included. All subjects were hospitalised in a psychiatric hospital. Patients with AD were 7 males and 4 females aged (Mean \pm SD) 80.5 \pm 5.7 years, MMS 7.6 \pm 6.2; controls were 3 males and 8 females aged 76.5 \pm 4.2 y, MMS 27.1 \pm 0.9. The two groups were not statistically different ($p > 0.05$) for these variables except for the MMS ($p < 0.01$). TSF