

**Disclosure of Interest:** None Declared

## EPV1559

### Use and experience of Italian healthcare professionals with aripiprazole once-monthly 400mg two-injection start initiation regimen in adult patients with schizophrenia

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**Introduction:** Aripiprazole once monthly 400mg (AOM400) is a long-acting injectable (LAI) available as a two-injection start initiation regimen (AOM400-TIS) for the maintenance treatment of adult patients with schizophrenia stabilised with oral aripiprazole.

**Objectives:** This survey sought to explore HCPs' perspectives and attitudes towards prescribing and/or administering AOM400-TIS according to the European label in clinical practice (including reasons for its use, potential benefits, and common barriers and/or concerns) across Europe.

**Methods:** HCPs who had prescribed and/or administered the AOM400-TIS regimen to  $\geq 3$  patients with schizophrenia were invited to participate in an online survey. The survey was launched in two waves across the target countries (wave 1: Italy, Germany, United Kingdom; wave 2: Denmark, Italy, Sweden). Analysis was descriptive; data was collected between February 1–March 21, 2024 (wave 1) and September 16–October 28 (wave 2). Data from Italian HCPs are presented.

**Results:** 31 HCPs from the 1st wave and 64 from the 2nd wave completed the survey including psychiatrists (69%), psychiatric nurses (23%), community nurses (4%) and general practitioners/primary care practitioners (1%). HCPs estimated 30.0% (median; IQR: 20.0–50.0) of patients in their caseload were diagnosed with schizophrenia, and of these, 45.0% were treated with LAIs (median; IQR: 25.0–62.5). 47% of HCPs were primarily responsible for prescribing AOM400-TIS, 24% for administering it, and 28% were responsible for both. HCPs estimated that 44% of patients typically spent up to 14 days on oral aripiprazole prior to AOM400-TIS, with HCPs rating the severity of symptoms of patients initiated with AOM400-TIS as mild (22% of HCPs), moderate (68% of HCPs) and severe (40% of HCPs). The most common reasons for initiating AOM400-TIS after transitioning from oral aripiprazole were poor adherence (80%) and patient preference (49%), and the most reported goals for prescribing AOM400-TIS were to improve adherence (75%) and prevent relapses (69%). Common barriers to the use of AOM400-TIS were patient reluctance to receive two injections (39%), concerns about tolerability (24%), safety of administering a high dose in a single day (23%). Prior treatment adherence (54%) and

efficacy (46%) were the most cited factors influencing prescribing of AOM400-TIS. Overall, HCPs "agreed", or "strongly agreed", that AOM400-TIS was easy to administer (81%) and that it had a similar safety/tolerability profile to the single injection start regimen (69%), while the majority were satisfied with patient outcomes with AOM400-TIS (83%).

**Conclusions:** Overall, Italian HCPs with experience of using AOM400-TIS reported that it is easy to administer, well tolerated and improves treatment outcomes, while barriers to its use include patient reluctance and perceived safety concerns.

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## EPV1565

### Esketamine in persistent long COVID with predominant psychiatric manifestations: A case series

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**Introduction:** The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a significant number of patients presenting with post COVID-19 condition, commonly referred to as long COVID, which can affect any individual exposed to SARS-CoV-2, resulting in diminished quality of life, reduced productivity, increased healthcare expenditures, and broader economic implications. The most prevalent symptoms include neuropsychiatric manifestations such as fatigue, cognitive impairment, anxiety, and depression. Beneficial effects of Silexan, a herbal medicine derived from *Lavandula angustifolia*, were reported in long COVID patients with subsyndromal psychiatric symptoms (Bartova et al. Eur Neuropsychopharmacology 2023;70:47-48). However, research is lacking regarding psychopharmacotherapy in patients with persistent symptoms. Esketamine, noted for its modulation of NMDA receptors, has also demonstrated immunomodulatory effects, positioning it as a promising intervention for Long