

CONSENSUS STATEMENT ON THE USE AND USEFULNESS OF SECOND GENERATION ANTIPSYCHOTIC MEDICATION

The General Assembly of the World Psychiatric Association,

Having considered the evidence on the effectiveness, side-effects, use and usefulness of the second generation antipsychotic medications presented to it by the WPA Task Force that assembled the relevant material in the Technical Review of such evidence and in its Update;

Having taken note of the fact that the Technical Review of the evidence has been presented to all of its Member Societies and that discussions of this document have been organized by more than twenty of its Member Societies and involved, not only psychiatrists but also other relevant specialists, and representatives of governments and patient and family organizations;

Recognizing that these meetings and the correspondence with Member Societies have made it possible to take into account the experience obtained in using these medications in many countries as well as the relevant evidence in preparing the Technical Reviews submitted to the WPA;

Aware of its constitutional mandate to do all that is within its power to improve the care for people with mental disorders;

1. Expresses its satisfaction with the intensive process of consultation used in the preparation of the relevant documents and commends the Executive Committee of the WPA for its leadership and the WPA Task Force for its efforts in developing the relevant documentation, coordinating national and international consultations and presenting the materials for discussion during WPA official meetings;
2. Thanks the Member Societies, individual experts, professional associations and governmental and nongovernmental organizations for the contributions they have made in the process of reviewing the evidence and experience with this group of medications;
3. Thanks academic institutions for their support and the pharmaceutical companies for the unrestricted educational grants that have greatly facilitated the work on this matter;
4. Adopts the following conclusions concerning the use of this group of medications, by consensus:
 - I. The World Psychiatric Association should give high priority to ensuring that antipsychotic medications of the first and second generations and other treatments of proven efficacy become available to all people who need them, worldwide. In pursuing this goal the WPA should collaborate with the health industry, including pharmaceutical companies, and with governments aiming to ensure appropriate treatment of people with mental illness as specified in the UN Resolution 119 of 1991.

- II. The scientific evidence about the effectiveness and side-effect profiles of the second-generation antipsychotic medications, and the experience from many countries justify the placement of these medications among the options for the initial treatment of schizophrenia and related psychotic disorders.
- III. The efforts to secure the availability of **effective** antipsychotic medications should go hand in hand with educational programmes for mental health personnel and with measures that will ensure the delivery of high quality mental health services.
- IV. The World Psychiatric Association should work with the World Health Organization on the development of the model list of drugs essential for psychiatric treatment to ensure that an appropriate array of medications is made available for the treatment of mental disorders.
- V. Member Societies as well as national and international research organizations in developed and developing countries should undertake or continue research that will produce currently lacking data on
 - i. The differential risk/benefit profiles of each of the medications in this group
 - ii. The comparison of second-generation antipsychotics with first-generation antipsychotics given at low doses
 - iii. The effects of second-generation antipsychotic medications on children with psychotic disorders
 - iv. The effects of these drugs in the treatment of psychotic states in women, elderly patients and patients with concurrent physical disorders
 - v. The long-term effects of these medications and their effects on different geographical, cultural and ethnic groups
 - vi. The use of second-generation antipsychotic medications for the treatment of disorders other than schizophrenia and related psychotic states.
- VI. The World Psychiatric Association should advocate an increase in the allocations for research on psychiatric treatment methods at national and international levels.
- VII. The Executive Committee of the WPA should continue its efforts to develop consensus statements on other matters of importance for the practice of psychiatry and seek resources to continue this line of work.

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