Baseline Serum Prolactin in Drug Naïve First Episode Schizophrenia Predicts a Positive Clinical and Social Outcome at Five Years, Post Discharge Follow-up

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Serum prolactin is set as an index of dopamine dysregulation. It is reported to increase in the variety of mental illnesses. It is closely correlated with antipsychotic therapy. However, an association with psychopathology and outcome is not clear. Serum prolactin level was measured in 30 male and 30 female drug-naive patients of schizophrenia. Subsequently, these patients were treated with antipsychotics. The severity of psychopathology at the baseline and subsequent improvement at the end of 3 years and the change in level was treated on minimal antipsychotic dosing scale (MPDSK). To follow-up five years, 16 males and 22 females were readmitted and findings analysed for predictive significance.

Contrary to expectations, prolactin levels in patients were twice as high before treatment compared to after. However, this difference was found to be statistically significant in females only. The ratio between the prolactin, BPRS, and outcome measurements were significant for any time point up to six years. Significant positive correlations were observed using measures collected five years follow up. From this present study it seems that baseline serum prolactin level in drug-naive patients of schizophrenia may not be a significant indicator of psychopathology but it may be an indicator of good prognosis in long term. Further research is necessary to arrive at a definite conclusion.

Conclusions

In our study, we concluded that serum prolactin level in drug-naive patients of schizophrenia may not be a reliable indicator of psychopathology but it may be an indicator of good prognosis in long term. Further research is necessary to arrive at a definite conclusion.

References

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