AWARENESS OF ILLNESS AND OUTPATIENT TREATMENT ADHERENCE IN SCHIZOPHRENIA

Brian J. Cuffel*, Joe Alford, Ellen P. Fischer, Richard Owen

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Clinical wisdom suggests better treatment adherence when persons with schizophrenia recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness and positively value the potential benefits of psychiatric treatment. We test the awareness-adherence relationship in a six month prospective study. Subjects were recently hospitalized, SCID diagnosed 18 to 55 years of age, and unscreened with regard to schizophrenia or substance use disorders ($n=96$). Initial interviews were conducted late in the course of hospitalization with the patient and a community informant. Follow-up interviews occurred six months following discharge. Interviews assessed overall adherence, adherence with medication, and use of various outpatient services. Regression analyses related each measure of adherence to awareness of illness controlling for patient sociodemographics, substance use disorder diagnosis, and urban or rural residence. Results indicated that awareness was associated with overall treatment adherence ($B=0.17, p<0.01$) and medication adherence ($B=0.48, p<0.05$) in the six months prior to baseline as reported by the informant. Contrary to expectation, awareness of illness was inversely related to overall treatment adherence at the six month follow-up ($B=-0.13, p<0.05$). Awareness was unrelated to any patient reported adherence. Results will be discussed in terms of their implications for theories of help-seeking by persons with schizophrenia.

DEVELOPMENT OF AN INSTRUMENT TO MEASURE CONSUMERS PERCEPTION OF QUALITY OF CARE FOR PSYCHOTIC INPATIENTS

M. De Hert, F. Abrahams, F. Timmer*, L. Van Bouwel, J. Peuskens

*UC St Josef, Leuvensesteenweg 517, B-3070 Kortenberg, Belgium, *NIZI, Oudlaan 4, Utrecht 3506 GR, Nederland*

In recent years there is a growing interest in the aspects of quality of care of services and patients satisfaction with treatment. We developed a research instrument to measure the perception of quality of care for psychotic inpatients.

The scale was developed using indepth interviews of patients and carers. 30 different topics relevant for the perception of care are identified. The questionnaire is a 3×5 matrix covering the aspects of information, influence/complaints, relational aspects, efficacy and provisions all related to the domains of treatment, living environment and leisure time. Each aspect is combined with each domain, thus creating 15 separate sub-

scales. This enables quality researchers to choose only those subscales that are relevant to the questions at hand.

Our first analysis shows that there is a high correlation between the patients' priorities of care and what carers indicate as important issues related to quality of care ($r=0.74$). Aspects most important in patients assessment of quality of care are: all relational aspects, efficacy of treatment, contacts with nurses and psychiatrists. Aspects least important to them are: overall rules and regulations, financial consequences and to our surprise separation and forced treatment.

NEEDS OF YOUNG CHRONIC PSYCHOTIC PATIENTS IN VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

V. Vercruyssen, M. De Hert, E. Sinave, L. Verhaeghen*, J. Peuskens

*PSC St Alexius, Gewijde-Boomstraat 102, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium, *Council for Mental Health, Marsveldstraat, Brussels, Belgium*

The aim of this study is to assess which needs young chronic psychotic patients have in the field of vocational rehabilitation. These needs are compared with the needs employers or trainers think patients have.

To assess these needs we used the Maslow Need Questionnaire. 38 Schizophrenic patients actively engaged in vocational rehabilitation programs were compared with 18 employers or trainers who work with this population. The mean age of the patients was 30 years and they have been suffering from schizophrenia for 10 years.

Overall there is a mild correlation between the patients' needs and those needs as perceived by employers. For the patients the most important needs are: selfrespect, trust, appreciation, income, meaningful work, adapted work/rhythm and professional support. Significant differences between patients and employers are found in: sense of purpose of the work ($p=0.000$), education ($p=0.000$), information ($p=0.000$), influence ($p=0.000$), social contacts ($p=0.000$) and independence ($p=0.000$).

VOCATIONAL TRAINING "IN VIVO" THROUGH VOLUNTARY WORK, A FOLLOW-UP STUDY

V. Vercruyssen, M. De Hert, E. Thys, J. Peuskens

PSC St Alexius, Gewijde-Boomstraat 102, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium

From the setting of a nighthospital for young chronic psychotic patients we provide a program of vocational rehabilitation with voluntary work in normal work environments.

We followed 120 patients, consecutive admissions, after a stay in our facility. The mean age at admission is 32 years and