Format: Abstract

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Clinical efficacy and changes in the dosages of concomitantly used psychotropic drugs in memantine therapy in Alzheimer's disease with behavioral and psychological symptoms on dementia.

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Abstract

OBJECTIVE: We investigated the clinical efficacy and changes in the dosages of concomitantly used psychotropic drugs in **memantine** therapy in Alzheimer's disease (AD) with behavioral and psychological symptoms on dementia (**BPSD**).

METHODS: The subjects were 38 inpatients who had been diagnosed with AD according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fourth edition (DSM-IV). The outcome measures assessed were **BPSD** and cognitive function. **BPSD** was assessed using the neuropsychiatric inventory (NPI) and cognitive function was assessed using the mini-mental examination (MMSE). The changes in the dosages of concomitant psychotropic drugs were also assessed.

RESULTS: SIGNIFICANT DECREASES WERE FOUND IN THE **MEMANTINE** THERAPY GROUP IN THE FOLLOWING NPI TOTAL SCORE AND FIVE NPI SUBSCALES: delusions, hallucinations, agitation, irritability, and aberrant motor behavior, but no significant differences were seen between the **memantine** therapy group and the control group. Furthermore, the **memantine** therapy group allowed the dosage of the psychotropic drugs to be significantly reduced compared with the control group.

CONCLUSION: The results of this study suggest that the administration of **memantine** to patients with AD with **BPSD** may afford superior efficacy and may also make it possible to reduce the risperidone equivalent dose, the diazepam equivalent dose and the dosage of the psychotropic drugs.