

# **CARDIOVASCULAR EFFECTS OF ATYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUGS (SGA)**

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Introduction: The QTc prolongation by antipsychotic drugs is of major concern, especially in light of the data indicating an increased risk of sudden death in psychiatric patients taking these drugs. Sudden death in psychiatric patients could be partially attributed to drug-induced torsades de pointes and for this reason careful evaluation of QTc prolonging properties of antipsychotic drugs is needed.

Objectives: This study aims to evaluate QTc prolongation effects of second generation antipsychotic drugs

Methods: Subjects treated with atypical antipsychotic drugs since October 2008 were enrolled in the study. Patients have been evaluated in two steps with ECG before taking drugs (T0) and after 2 months of therapy. Patients drug-naive or after a pharmacological switch were enrolled.

Results: 49 patients (27 men; 22 women) accepted to join the research.

63 % of subjects were drug-naïve, 37 % had been treated before with typical or atypical antipsychotic drugs.

Prescribed drugs were Risperidone, Paliperidone, Aripiprazolo, Olanzapine, Ziprasidone and Quetiapine.

No significant difference occurred between T0 and T1 in QTc length in the whole examined group.

Ziprasidone and Olanzapine produced a non-significant drug-induced prolongation of QTc.