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Question: Should haloperidol vs chlorpromazine be used in adults with aggression or agitation?

Bibliography: Leucht C, Kitzmantel M, Kane J, Leucht S, Chua WLLC. Haloperidol versus chlorpromazine for schizophrenia. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2008, Issue 1.

Quality assessment							No of patients		Effect			
No of studies	Design	Risk of bias	Inconsisten cy	Indirectness	Imprecision	Other consideratio ns	Haloperidol	Chlorproma zine	Relative (95% CI)	Absolute	Quality	Importance
Global state: No clinically significant improvement - as defined by the individual studies												
4 ¹		no serious risk of bias		no serious indirectness	serious ³	none	30/89 (33.7%)	33/70 (47.1%)	RR 0.65 (0.36 to 1.19)	165 fewer per 1000 (from 302 fewer to 90 more)	⊕⊕OO LOW	CRITICAL
Leaving the study early												
			no serious inconsistency		very serious⁵	none	2/109 (1.8%)	2/84 (2.4%)	RR 0.66 (0.1 to 4.18)	8 fewer per 1000 (from 21 fewer to 76 more)	⊕⊕OO LOW	CRITICAL
Hypothension												
-	randomised trials		no serious inconsistency		very serious ³	none	4/64 (6.3%)	8/45 (17.8%)	RR 0.37 (0.1 to 1.41)	112 fewer per 1000 (from 160 fewer to 73 more)	⊕⊕OO LOW	IMPORTANT
Extrapyramidal symptoms												
			no serious inconsistency		very serious ^{3,8}	none	12/64 (18.8%)	2/45 (4.4%)	RR 3.49 (0.84 to 14.44)	111 more per 1000 (from 7 fewer to 597 more)	⊕⊕OO LOW	IMPORTANT

¹ From Analysis 2.2 of Leucht 2007. Haloperidol dosages: 5mg (2 studies); 1-5mg (1 study); 5-30mg (1 study). Chlorpromazine dosages: 25mg (1 study); 50mg (2 studies); 25-300mg (1 study). study).

² Visual inspection of forest plot suggests some heterogeneity. I-squared=58%

³ Less than 200 patients included in the analysis, and CI ranges from substantial benefit with haloperidol to no benefit at all.

⁴ From Analysis 2.1 of Leucht 2007

⁵ Less than 200 patients included in the analysis, and CI ranges from substantial benefit with haloperidol to substantial benefit with chlorpromazine.

⁶ From Analysis 2.4 of Leucht 2007

7 From Analysis 2.6 of Leucht 2007

⁸ Less than 200 patients included in the analysis, and CI ranges from substantial benefit with chlorpromazine to no benefit at all.