

Medicines Management & Pharmacy Services (MMPS)

Effect of psychotropic drugs on QTc interval

Many psychotropics are known to cause a lengthening of the QTc interval.

ECG monitoring is advised by NICE before antipsychotic treatment is begun and repeated annually if abnormalities are detected.

Normal values for QTc are: <440 msec for men

<470 msec for women

Values of >500 msec are linked to an increased risk of arrhythmia.

Psychotropic drugs associated with an increase of > 20 msec prolongation of QTc

High dose antipsychotic use

Intravenous antipsychotics

Haloperidol

Pimozide

Sertindole

Psychotropic drugs associated with an increase of >10 but <20 msec prolongation of QTc

Amisulpride

Chlorpromazine

Quetiapine

Citalopram and escitalopram

Tricyclic antidepressants

Psychotropic drugs associated with a small increase (< 10msec) in QTc in normal use or overdose

Aripiprazole

Clozapine

Flupentixol

Fluphenazine

Olanzapine

Risperidone

Sulpiride

Moclobemide

Venlafaxine

Trazodone

Lithium

Psychotropic drugs not reported to cause QTc prolongation

SSRIs except citalopram and escitalopram

Mirtazapine

MAOIs

References

- (1) Maudsley Prescribing Guidelines; 11th edition; 2012
- (2) Psychotropic Drug Directory 2010; Bazire

For further information: www.choiceandmedication.org/leedsandyorkpft

Provenance

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