

# Sexual Dysfunction and psychiatric disorder and psychiatric drugs

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# Teaching Points

- Many psychiatric drugs are associated with sexual dysfunction
- Drug-induced sexual dysfunction may be an unspoken cause of treatment non-compliance
- In most cases, sexual side effects can be medically managed

# Abbreviated Outline

- A. Co-morbidity of sexual dysfunction and psychiatric disorders
- B. Need for direct inquiry
- C. SSRIs and sexual dysfunction
- D. Benzodiazepines and SD
- E. Lithium and SD
- F. Anticonvulsants and SD
- G. .Antipsychotics and SD

# Pre-Lecture Exam

## Question 1

- Which antidepressants appears to have a very low incidence of drug-induced sexual dysfunction?
- 1. paroxetine
- 2. fluoxetine
- 3. sertraline
- 4. bupropion

## Question 2

- Which drug has been shown in double-blind trials to reverse SSRI-induced sexual dysfunction?
- 1. mirtazapine
- 2. yohimbine
- 3. gransitron
- 4. sildenafil

# Question 3

- Which antipsychotic appears to have the lowest incidence of drug-induced sexual dysfunction?
- 1. olanzapine
- 2. risperidone
- 3. thioridazine
- 4. haloperidol

# Question 4

- True or false
- Case reports suggest that sildenafil may be helpful in reversing antipsychotic-induced sexual dysfunction.
- True
- False

## Question 5

- Studies indicate that which of the following may be successful in reversing SSRI-induced sexual dysfunction.
  - 1. 15 mg buspirone
  - 2. 60mg buspirone
  - 3. 50mg amantadine
  - 4. 15mg yohimbine



# Sexual Co-Morbidity

- Major depressive disorder
- Obsessive compulsive disorder
- Posttraumatic stress disorder
- Anorexia nervosa
- Schizophrenia
- Social phobia
- Panic disorder

Lindal & Steffansson, SPPE,1993;Wiederman et al, IJED,1996;Kennedy et al, JAD,1999;Kockott et al, CP,1996;Minnen & Kampman, SRT,2000;Kivela & Palhala, IJSP,1988;Aizenberg et al, JCP,1995;Aversa et al, IJA, 1996;Bodinger et al, JCP,2002; Aksaray et al, JSMT;Figueira et al, ASB,2001

# History

- 1. 1971 :first report of female orgasm delay on monoamine oxidase inhibitors
- 2. 1985 :double-blind study indicated high rate of orgasm/libido problems on both phenelzine and imipramine
- 2. 1987 :Double-blind study indicated orgasm problems on benzodiazepines
- 3. 1976-Reports of orgasm delay on antipsychotics

# Sex Differences

- PDR initially only indicated that sexual problems occurred in males
- Early clinical reports indicated that sexual problems more common in men than women on SSRIs
- Recent reports indicate somewhat similar rates of SSRI-induced sexual dysfunction in both sexes or more severe in females
- Zajecka et al, 1997; Labbate et al, 1998; Nkanginieme & Seagraves, 2001

# Need for Physician Inquiry

- Only about 1/4 of patients experiencing drug-induced sexual dysfunction will report this to their physician unless directly asked

# Problem with patient self-report

- Studies in US, UK, Spain, Sweden have compared estimates of incidence of drug-induced SD obtained by patient spontaneous self-report vs direct inquiry by physician. Direct inquiry by MD reveals more SD than patient spontaneous report.
  - 96% vs 33%
  - 58% vs 14%
  - 80% vs 15%
  - 41% vs 6%

# Evidence Concerning Rates of Drug-induced Sexual Dysfunction

- 1. Controlled trials
- 2. Large clinical series
- 3. Efficacy in treatment of rapid ejaculation

# Controlled Studies with Direct Inquiry

1. Clomipramine (Anafranil ) > placebo
2. Sertraline (Zoloft) > nefazodone (Serzone)
3. Sertraline (Zoloft) > bupropion (Wellbutrin)
4. Paroxetine (Paxil) > duloxetine (Cymbalta)> placebo
5. Fluoxetine (Prozac) > bupropion (Wellbutrin)
6. Citalopram ( Celexa) = paroxetine (Paxil)

1. Monteiro et al, BJP,1987; 2. Harrison et al, JCP,1986; 3. Feiger et al, JCP,1996, Ferguson et al, JCP, 2001; 4. Segraves et al, JCP,200; Kavoussi et al, JCP, 2001, Croft et al, JCP, 1999; 4. Delgado et al, JCP,2005; 6. Landen et al, JCP, 2005

- Large Clinical Series



# Observation in Clinical Settings

- 5 year open label prospective study of treatment emergent sexual dysfunction
- 1022 patients ( 610 women, 412 men)
- Average age 39.8 years
- Standard questionnaire used at multiple clinical sites in Spain

# Sexual Side Effect Profile

- Citalopram (Celexa) 73%
- Paroxetine (Paxil) 71%
- Venlafaxine (Effexor CR) 67%
- Sertraline (Zoloft) 63%
- Fluoxetine (Prozac) 58%
- Mirtazapine (Remeron) 24%
- Nefazodone (Serzone) 8%

# Additional Observations

- 1. Sexual side effects more frequent in men
- 2. Sexual side effects more severe in women
- 3. Spontaneous remission at 6 months 10%
- 4. Most common problems-delayed orgasm or ejaculation and decreased libido

Montejo et al, JCP, 2001

# General Practice Setting

- Multicenter cross sectional study
- Study of 6297 patients in 1101 sites
- Standard Questionnaire given to patients on antidepressants
- Average age 43
- 72% female
- 70% married

Clayton et al, JCP, 2002

# General Practice Study

## % Experiencing Sexual Dysfunction

- Paroxetine (Paxil) 43%
- Mirtazapine (Remeron) 41%
- Venlafaxine (EffexorCR) 40%
- Sertraline (Zoloft) 40%
- Citalopram (Celexa) 37%
- Fluoxetine (Prozac) 36%
- Nefazodone (Serzone) 28%
- Bupropion (WellbutrinSR) 25%

Clayton et al, 2002

# SubGroup Analysis

- Bupropion (Wellbutrin SR) 6.7%
- Sertraline (Zoloft) 26%
- Paroxetine (Paxil) 25.8%
- Fluoxetine (Prozac) 22.9%
- Citalopram (Celexa) 30%
- Venlafaxine (EffexorCR) 30%

# Time Course

- By day seven, patients on sertraline had more orgasm delay than placebo
- By day 42, less desire disorder on bupropion than placebo or sertraline
- By day 56, more arousal disorder on sertraline than bupropion

- Treatment of rapid ejaculation



# Controlled studies on Ejaculatory latency\*\*

- Placebo 1.5 fold increase
- 100 mg fluvoxamine 1.9 fold increase
- 20mg fluoxetine\* 6.6 fold increase
- 20mg paroxetine\* 7.8 fold increase
- 50mg sertraline\* 4.4 fold increase

# Paroxetine and Citalopram

- Intravaginal ejaculatory latency time
- Stop watch, 6 weeks treatment
- 20mg paroxetine 8.9 fold
- 20mg citalopram 1.8 fold
- Waldinger, J Clin Psychopharmacol, 2001

# Summary Slide

- Causes significant delay ejaculation
- 1. Paroxetine ( Paxil )
- 2. Sertraline (Zoloft)
- 3. Fluoxetine ( Prozac)
- 4. Clomipramine ( Anafranil )
- 5. Citalopram (Celexa)

1. Waldinger et al, AJP, 1994, Waldinger et al, BJU, 1997; McMahon et al, JU, 1999
2. Waldinger et al, JCP, 1998; Mendels et al, JCP, 1995; McMahon, JU, 1998;
3. Waldinger et al, JCP, 1998; Kara et al, JU, 1996; Haensel et al, JCP, 1998; Biri et al, IVN, 1999
4. Strassberg et al, JSMT, 1999; Segraves et al, JSMT, 1993; Althof et al, JCP, 1995
5. Atmaca et al, IJIR, 2002

# Rapid Ejaculation Summary Slide

- Minimal or no delay
  - 1. Fluvoxamine (Luvox)
  - 2. Nefazodone (Serzone)
  - 3. Mirtazapine (Remeron)
  - 4. Citalopram (Celexa) at 20mg dose

1. Waldinger et al, JCP,1988; 2. Waldinger et al, JCP,1998
2. Waldinger et al, JCP,2001 3. Waldinger, JU, 2002
3. Waldinger, JCP,2001

# Controlled Comparisons

- 1. Clomipramine > Sertraline > Fluoxetine
- 2. Paroxetine > Fluoxetine > Sertraline
- Fluvoxamine = placebo
- 3. 40mg fluoxetine = 50mg sertraline
- 4. Paroxetine = clomipramine = sertraline

1. Kim & Sue, JU, 1998; 2. Waldinger et al, JCP, 1998;  
3. Murat et al, AEU, 1999

# On Demand

- Clomipramine 25mg effective
- Paroxetine = placebo

Waldinger et al, EU,2004

# Bottom line

- 1. Good data that bupropion, nefazodone , and possibly mirtazapine have low levels SD
- 2. Citalopram at usual dose levels has high rates of SD
- 3. Good data that clomipramine & paxil have high rates of SD
- 4. Duloxetine probably has intermediate rates of SD

# Solutions to Anorgasmia secondary to serotonergic drugs

- Dose reduction
- Switch antidepressant
- Drug holiday
- Antidotes
- Wait for adaptation

**Knangienime & Segraves, 2001**

**Segraves & Balon, Sexual Pharmacology, 2003**



# Drug Substitution

- Bupropion ( Wellbutrin )\*
- Nefazodone ( Serzone ) \*
- Fluvoxamine ( Luvox )
- Mitazapine ( Remeron)

\* Controlled studies

# Antidotes-Case Reports

- Yohimbine 1-2 tablets PRN
- Cyproheptadine 4-8 mg PRN
- Amantadine 100-400mg PRN
- Dextroamphetamine 20mg PRN
- Gingko bilboa 120mg qd
- Nefazodone 150mg PRN
- Bupropion 100mg bid
- Mirtazapine 15-45mg qd
- Sildenafil 50-100mg PRN
- Bethanechol 10-50mg PRN
- Methyphenidate 5-40mg qd
- Neostigmine 50-200 mg PRN
- Pemoline 18.75-75mg qd

- Controlled studies of antidotes

# Antidotes

- Double-blind studies have established that buspirone 60 mg daily will reverse serotonergic antidepressant -induced sexual dysfunction in both sexes
- Failure reported at lower doses

**Landen et al, 1999; Michelson et al, AJP, 1998;**

# Sildenafil

- A double-blind multi-site study found that 50-100mg sildenafil PRN reversed SSRI-induced sexual dysfunction in men
- Subsequent analysis indicates effect mainly restricted to subgroup with ED
- Interim analysis of study in progress suggest that 25-50mg may be effective in reversing SSRI-induced SD in women

Nurnberg et al, JAMA,2003: Nurnberg et al, McGill, 2002

# Antidote Studies

- 1. Mirtazapine, yohimbine, placebo ineffective
- 2. Ephedrine ineffective
- 3. 150mg bupropion ineffective
- 4. 300mg bupropion effective
- 5. 20mg buspirone & 50mg amantadine ineffective
- 6. 20-60mg buspirone effective
- 7. Gransiteron ( 5HT3 antagonist) ineffective

1. Michelson et al, JPR, 2002 2. Meston et al, JSMT, 2004 3. DeBatista et al, JCP, 2005 ;  
Masand et al, AJP 2001 4. Clayton et al, JCP, 2001; Clayton et al, JCP. 2004  
5. Michelson et al, AJP, 2000 6. Landen et al, JCP, 1999 7. Nelson et al, JCP, 2001

# Mechanism

- Descending inhibition by 5HT projection from nucleus paragigantocellularis
- Paroxetine potent inhibitor of NOS
- Probably involves 5HT<sub>2</sub>
- Inhibition of mesolimbic DA pathways by 5HT

Sussan & Genshey, 1998, Alcantara, SMT, 1999; Stable, 1998; Lauerma, APS, 1996  
marson & McKenan, JCN, 1996; McKenna, SDM, 2001

# Benzodiazepines

- Numerous case reports of anorgasmia on benzodiazepines
- One double-blind, placebo-controlled study
- Orgasm by vibrator in laboratory
- Dose response delay in orgasm by diazepam

Riley & Riley, SMT, 1986; Fossey & Hammer, 1994;  
Segraves & Balon, In Press



# Lithium and Sexual Dysfunction

- Case reports suggest that lithium may impair libido and erectile function
- One double blind study found that 2/10 of bipolar patients developed erectile problems on therapeutic doses of lithium
- It is difficult to discriminate between a drug side effect, phase of the disease, and a treatment effect

Vinarova et al , 1976

Aizenberg et al, 1996

# Anticonvulsants

- Case reports of anorgasmia on gabapentin and carbamazepine
- Case reports of decreased libido, impaired arousal and anorgasmia on valproate monotherapy
- Case reports of improved erectile function in epileptics on lamotrigine

Schnech et al, JCP,2002; Husain et al, SMJ,2002;  
Leris et al, BJU,1997;Labbate & Rubey,AJP,1999

# Anticonvulsants

- Carbamazepine (Tegretol) increases serum hormone binding globulin and thus decreases bioavailability of androgens
- Oxcarbamazepine (Trileptal) does not influence androgen bioavailability

- ANTIPSYCHOTIC DRUGS

# Antipsychotic Drugs and Sexual Dysfunction

- In general evidence suggests that newer prolactin sparing antipsychotics are less likely to cause sexual dysfunction than older agents causing prolactin elevation
- Evidence is not consistent

# Report of SD on Antipsychotics

- Studies in Spain and the Netherlands have found dramatic under reporting of sexual side effects.
- 10% vs 60%
- 15% vs 80%
- 

Knegtering et al, 2002; Montejo et al, 1998

- Most evidence consists of case reports and clinical series.

# Early Case Report

- Sexual interviews, n=87
- Difficulty with erections in 44% of patients on thioridazine ( Mellaril ) versus 19% on other antipsychotics
- Ejaculatory problems in 49%

Kotin et al, 1975



# Loxapine ( Loxatine )

- Clinical series, computerized questionnaire
- Dickson-Glazer Sexual Function Scale
- 40% decrease libido
- 30% erectile problems
- 36% ejaculation problems

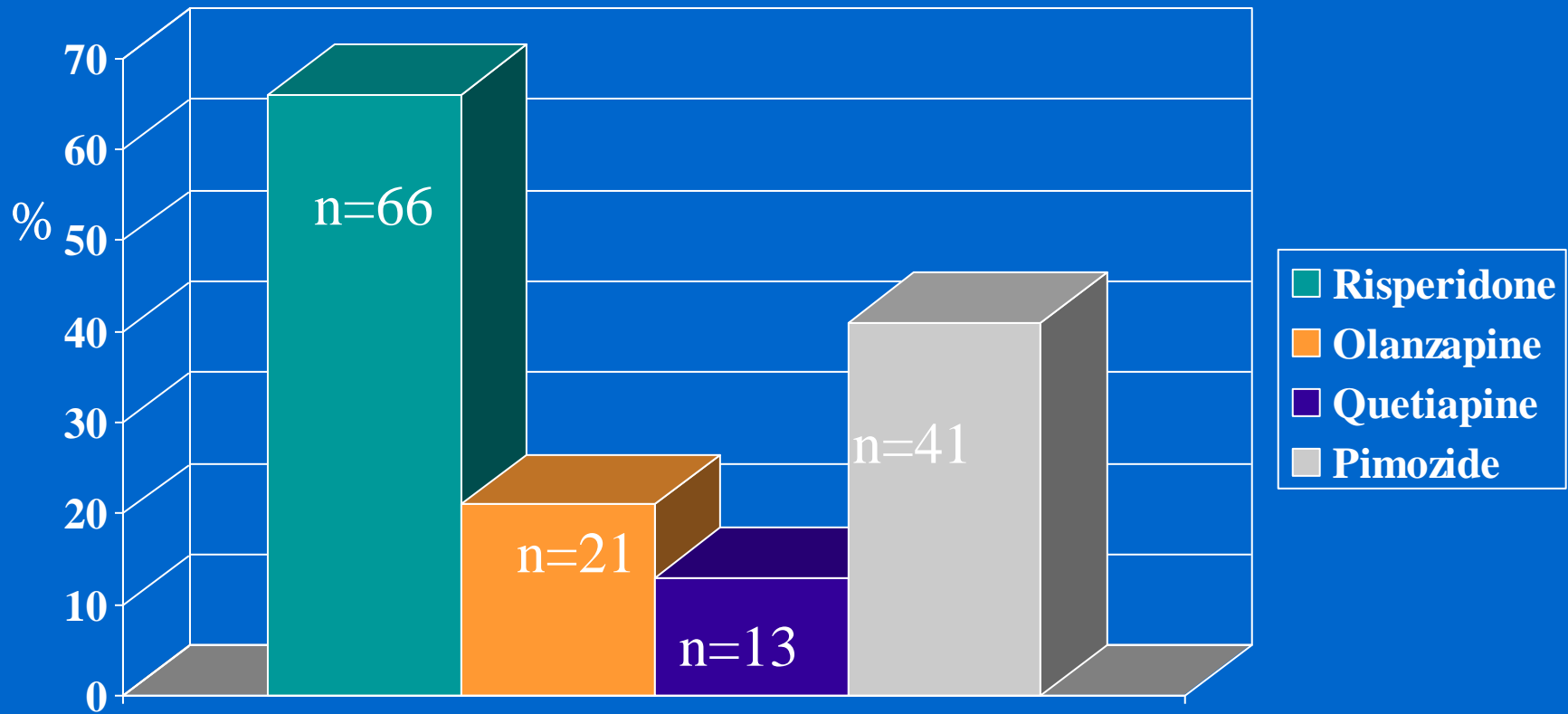
Dickson, APA, Chicago, 2000.

# Antipsychotics and SD

- Open label study of 106 outpatients
- Risperidone (Risperdal) 82% ( 5.5mg/d )
- Haloperidol ( Haldol ) 25% ( 5.8mg/d)
- Olanzapine ( Zyprexa) 2% ( 9.4 mg/d)
- Clozapine ( Clozaril ) 0% ( 115mg.d )

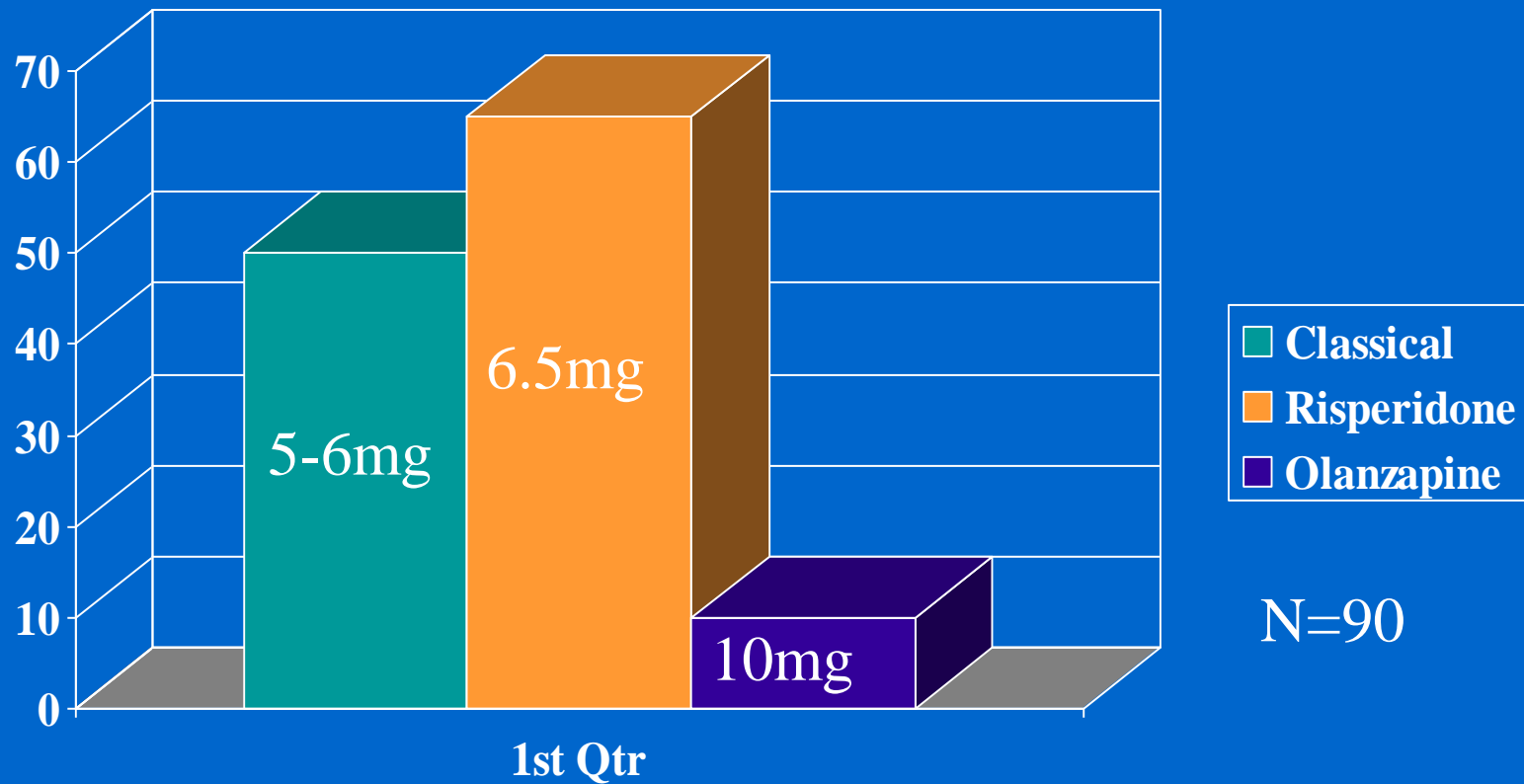
- 
- Various open label studies by Knegtering of patients with schizophrenia monitoring sexual side effects by direct inquiry

# New Antipsychotics



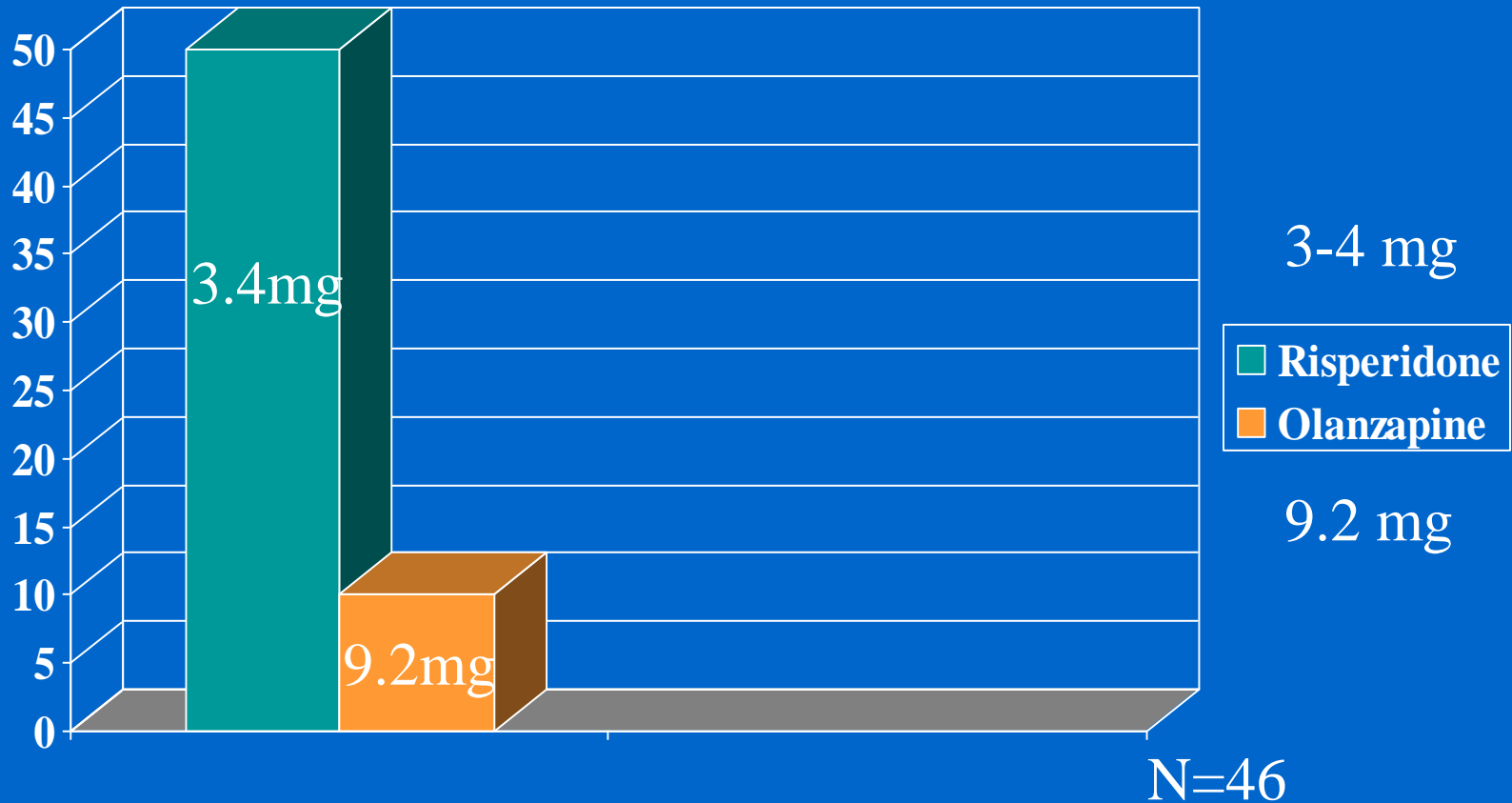
Knegtering et al, 2002

# SD and Antipsychotic Drug Therapy



Knegtering et al, 2002

# Risperidone vs Olanzapine



Knegtering et al, 2000

# EIRE Study

- Multi-site cross sectional study of patients with schizophrenia on either haloperidol, risperidone, olanzapine or quetiapine
- UKU rating scale
- N=636
- 61% male
- 71% single
- Average age 35

# Frequency of Sexual Side Effects

- Haloperidol ( Haldol) 38%
- Risperidone (Risperdal) 43%
- Olanzapine (Zyprexa) 35%
- Quetiapine (Seroquel) 18%



# Other Findings

- Most common problem erectile dysfunction and loss of sexual desire in men
- In women, lost of sexual desire most common
- Frequency of side effects appeared to be dose related

Bobes et al, JSMT,2003

# Intercontinental Schizophrenia Outpatient Health Outcome Study

570 patients started on clozapine, olanzapine,  
quetiapine, riperidone, haloperidol

Sexual dysfunction assessed at baseline, 3 and  
6 months

Less sexual dysfunction on olanzapine

# Controlled Study

- Randomly assigned to ziprasidone 40-80mg or risperidone 3-5 mg for 8 weeks
- Sexual dysfunction questionnaire
- Similar types and frequencies of sexual dysfunction
- Except risperidone twice as much ejaculatory disorder ( not statistically signif)

# Side Effect Burden

- Patient ratings of burden

- Akinesia 40%
- Weight gain 37%
- Anticholinergic 33%
- Sexual problems 31%

- Weiden & Mitler, JPP,2001

# Bottom Line

Risperidone ( Risperdal ) and traditional antipsychotics probably have highest incidence of sexual side effects

- Olanzapine ( Zyprexa ) and quetiapine ( Seroquel ) probably have the lowest incidence of sexual side effects

# Management of Sexual Side Effects

- 1. Dose reduction
- 2. Antidotes
- 3. Switch drugs

# Antidotes

- 1. Sildenafil reverses ED
- 2. Case report so success using amantadine ( Symmetrel ), bromocriptine and cabergoline ( Dostinex) to restore libido and orgasm
- 3. No success with selegiline ( Eldepryl )

Salerian et al, 1999; Valevski et al, 1998; Tollin, 2000;  
Benatov et al, 1999, Kodesh et al, 2003; Aviv et al. JCP, 2004

# Switching Drugs

1. Switch to quetiapine from risperidone
2. Switch to olanzapine from risperidone
3. Switch to aripiprazole from ziprasidone

1. Keller & Mongibe, NS, 2002; 2. Ahi et al, ANYAS, 2004; 3. Angelesc & Wolf, JCP, 2004



# Mechanism

- Prolactin elevation interfering with dopamine synthesis
- Alpha-1 blockade
- Direct effect D2 blockade

# Priapism

- 1. Risperidone ( Risperdal )
- 2. Ziprasidone ( Geodon )
- 3. Aripiprazole ( Abilify )
- 4. Quetiapine ( Seroquel )
- 5. Olanzapine ( Zyprexa )
- 6. Clozapine ( Clozaril )

1,5,6, Reeves & Mack, P, 2003; 2. Reeves & Kimble, JCP, 2003  
3. Nagin & Murphy, JAACAp, 2005; Daval & Ruksta;is, 2005

# Summary

- Numerous psychiatric drugs affect human sexuality
- Sexual side effects may be cause of treatment noncompliance
- Sexual side effects be reversible

# Post-Lecture Exam

## Question 1

- Which antidepressants appears to have a very low incidence of drug-induced sexual dysfunction?
- 1. paroxetine
- 2. fluoxetine
- 3. sertraline
- 4. bupropion

## Question 2

- Which drug has been shown in double-blind trials to reverse SSRI-induced sexual dysfunction?
- 1. mirtazapine
- 2. yohimbine
- 3. granisteron
- 4. sildenafil

## Question 3

- Which antipsychotic appears to have the lowest incidence of drug-induced sexual dysfunction?
- 1. olanzapine
- 2. risperidone
- 3. thioridazine
- 4. haloperidol

# Question 4

- True or false
- Case reports suggest that sildenafil may be helpful in reversing antipsychotic-induced sexual dysfunction.
- True
- False

## Question 5

- Studies indicate that which of the following may be successful in reversing SSRI-induced sexual dysfunction.
  - 1. 15 mg buspirone
  - 2. 60mg buspirone
  - 3. 50mg amantadine
  - 4. 15mg yohimbine



# Answers to Pre & Post Lecture Exams

1. 4
2. 4
3. 1
4. True
5. 2