

Online CME/CPE Medical Simulation: REGISTER TODAY!

Schizophrenia Case Series, Part 1: Managing Acute Psychosis in Schizophrenia

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Release Date: April 3, 2009
Credit Expiration Date: April 3, 2010
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This activity offers CE credit for:
• Physicians (CME) • Pharmacists (CPE)
All other clinicians will either receive a CME Attendance Certificate or may choose any of the types of CE credit being offered.

Questions? Call CME Outfitters at **877.CME.PROS**.

STATEMENT OF NEED

The management of schizophrenia is complex, and perhaps one of the most challenging decision points is how to manage the first-episode, acutely psychotic patient. Accurate assessment of prodromal and current symptoms is important to early diagnosis, which in turn is critical to initiating appropriate and aggressive treatment. Clinical decisions made at the first episode can impact long-term outcome. The use of sensitive and reliable assessment tools and laboratory tests, including toxicology testing, plays an important role in accurate diagnosis. Diagnosis of first episode can be complicated; although psychotic episodes are often recognized by a defining event, some symptoms are normally present but actively hidden by the patient and/or unnoticed by family and friends for a number of months, thus delaying the perceived need for medical intervention. The period of time between the development of psychotic symptoms and the initial presentation for treatment is known as the duration of untreated psychosis (DUP); DUP is one of the strongest predictors of future outcomes.^{1,2} Evidence-based acute management strategies that provide effective symptom control are critical to setting the stage for optimizing long-term outcome. Early, evidence-based, and targeted management with effective therapies can reduce DUP and improve the likelihood of remission. In the short term, the majority of patients treated with antipsychotics achieve remission, with estimates ranging between 70% to 87%.³ However, remission rates over the long term are significantly lower, particularly in patients with substance abuse or other comorbidities associated with generally poorer outcome.

¹ Weiden PJ, Buckley PF, Grody M. Understanding and treating "first-episode" schizophrenia. *Psychiatr Clin North Am* 2007;30:481-510.
² Perkins DO, Gu H, Boteva K, Lieberman JA. Relationship between duration of untreated psychosis and outcome in first-episode schizophrenia: a critical review and meta-analysis. *Am J Psychiatry* 2005;162:1785-1804.
³ Freudenreich O, Holt DJ, Cather C, Goff DC. The evaluation and management of patients with first-episode schizophrenia: a selective, clinical review of diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis. *Harv Rev Psychiatry* 2007;15:189-211.

ACTIVITY GOAL

To provide mental healthcare practitioners with strategies drawn from the latest evidence for assessing, diagnosing, and treating acutely psychotic patients presenting to the Emergency Department in order to facilitate stabilization in the acute phase and support positive long-term outcome.

COMMERCIAL SUPPORT

CME Outfitters, LLC, gratefully acknowledges an educational grant from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals and Solvay Pharmaceuticals in support of this CE activity.

FAX completed form to **240.243.1033**

YES! Register me for this online neuroscienceCME activity.

Site Name: _____ # Participants: _____

Individual Name: _____ Degree: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Practice Setting: Community Mental Health State Mental Health Primary Care
 Private Practice Other: _____ Phone: _____

Fax: _____ Email: _____



FACULTY INFORMATION

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this CE activity, participants should be able to:

- Conduct appropriate assessment and differential diagnosis of acutely psychotic patients presenting to the Emergency Department.
- Evaluate available pharmacological options for managing symptoms in acutely psychotic patients.
- Develop a treatment plan consisting of both pharmacological and behavioral approaches to stabilize the acutely psychotic patient.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Physicians, physician assistants, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals with an interest in mental health.

CREDIT INFORMATION

CME Credit (Physicians): CME Outfitters, LLC, is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

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0.5 contact hours (0.05 CEUs)

Universal Program Number: 376-000-09-009-H01-P
Activity Type: knowledge-based

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