1-113 EPS and Atypicals

TIPS Question:

Risperidone is said to exacerbate Parkinson's. Would Seroquel be a better choice?

Response:

The new atypicals, of which Risperidone and Seroquel are members, have provided us with medications that are much better tolerated particularly by the elderly. The reasons for selecting atypicals in the elderly is that they cause less EPS effects and also appear to not effect cognition as markedly as the traditional medications as well as reducing the incidence of Tardive Dyskinesia.

The degree that they do cause Parkinson's symptoms does differentiate the atypical somewhat but again this is dependent upon dose. Lower doses of Risperidone seem to be tolerated very well, whereas at a higher dose range EPS can become a problem. Seroquel is suggested to have less EPS effects and therefore might be a choice if you have somebody very vulnerable to Parkinson's. Again, the best approach to consider is to look at which drug is best for this individual, looking at the STEPS, i.e. the **S**afety of the drug, the **T**olerance of the drug, the **E**fficacy of the drug, the **P**rice, and the **S**implicity of the medication.

If we did compare Risperidone, Olanzapine, and Seroquel - Risperidone does have a higher propensity than either Olanzapine or Seroquel for EPS effects. On the other hand, it is a well-tolerated drug otherwise and the cost of the drug is reasonable.

Please note: *TIPS information should be used similar to the way you would use information from a text book! TIPS is not intended to serve as an individual consultation service! P.I.E.C.E.S. participants should use this information in context and always work closely with the family physician involved in the care of the resident or client and with other Partners In Care to find solutions to individual resident/client issues.*