Well-being and co-morbidity in recent onset schizophrenia
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Content and structure of the thesis

Part I. Antipsychotic medication, subjective well-being, craving for and use of cannabis and compliance

The first part focuses on the effect of olanzapine and risperidone on subjective well-being, craving for and use of cannabis, and treatment continuation in patients with recent onset schizophrenia and related disorders.

Part I consists of 5 chapters.

Chapter 1.1 is a review of the literature on different neurobiological theories on vulnerability concerning drug abuse and schizophrenia in adolescence.

Chapter 1.2 describes the effects of olanzapine and risperidone on initial subjective well-being in young patients with schizophrenia, and the effect of these antipsychotics on the use of and craving for cannabis.

Chapter 1.3 reports on early withdrawal in the double-blind randomized clinical trial with olanzapine and risperidone performed in adolescents with first psychosis.

Chapter 1.4 presents data from one-year follow up after the initial double blind trial with olanzapine and risperidone.

Chapter 1.5 describes the relationship between early improvement of subjective well-being and enduring symptomatic remission during a 5 year follow up of first episode schizophrenia.

Part II. Obsessive-Compulsive Symptoms in recent onset schizophrenia

The second part investigates the genetic background of obsessive-compulsive symptoms and the effect of olanzapine and risperidone on the induction and severity of these symptoms.

Part II consists of two chapters.

Chapter 2.1 presents data of obsessive-compulsive symptoms (OCS) from a randomized double blind study in young patients with recent-onset schizophrenia or related disorders. Olanzapine is compared with risperidone.

Chapter 2.2 reports on the role of the catechol-o-methyltransferase gene as a modifier gene in schizophrenia by testing the association between the functional Val158Met and obsessive-compulsive symptoms in patients with recent onset schizophrenia.
Part III. Insulin resistance in neuroleptic naive patients with recent onset schizophrenia

The third part of this thesis presents data from a study that was performed in drug naive patients with schizophrenia, to investigate whether an impaired glucose metabolism is a part of the pathophysiology of the primary disorder and not secondary to the use of medication.

Chapter 3.1 presents the data from a study of glucose metabolism with a hyperinsulinemic, euglycaemic clamp, in drug naive patients with first episode psychosis, in order to determine hepatic and peripheral insulin resistance.
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