Introduction

Ziprasidone is an atypical antipsychotic that has demonstrated efficacy for the treatment of bipolar disorder and schizophrenia in adults.

The drug has less propensity for neurological side effects, metabolic side effects and weight gain in adults.

Ziprasidone is FDA approved for treatment in adults but not for children and adolescents.

There is some preliminary evidence for Ziprasidone use in children and adolescents with several open label studies and two randomized control trials.

It is advantageous to understand overall tolerability in children and adolescents.

Methods (see Figure 1 at lower right)

We conducted a literature search consisting of open label or randomized control trials (RCT) that report on Ziprasidone use in children on three databases: Embase, PsychInfo and PubMed using the PRISMA guidelines of Systematic review and Meta-analysis.

Out of 1690 articles found in these databases, 11 studies (8 open label, 1 retrospective and 2 randomized control trial) met our inclusion criteria.

Our outcome measures included adverse effects such as weight gain, increase in BMI, QTc prolongation, changes in metabolic parameters, sedation, dizziness and other side effects.

Studies Selected

Data from Eleven studies was meta-analysed (Total n= 474, mean age=12.87 years, male= 68.37%) that reported the use of Ziprasidone in children and adolescents with Psychosis, Bipolar, Autism spectrum disorders and Tourettes syndrome.

Demographics

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of participants</th>
<th>474</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean Age</td>
<td>12.8 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean dose</td>
<td>84.4 mg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mean study duration</td>
<td>2.85 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% male</td>
<td>68.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% caucasian</td>
<td>68.9%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Results from the current analysis demonstrate that Ziprasidone cause minimal weight gain or change in BMI.

QTc prolongation and sedation were found to be the most significant side effects of Ziprasidone use.

Therefore, baseline EKG and thorough history may be beneficial before prescribing Ziprasidone in children and adolescents.

Conclusion

Ziprasidone cause minimal weight gain or change in BMI.

QTc prolongation and sedation were found to be the most significant side effects of Ziprasidone use.

Therefore, baseline EKG and thorough history may be beneficial before prescribing Ziprasidone in children and adolescents.