Priority Topic: SCHIZOPHRENIA

Key Features:

For a nice summary article, check out: Schizophrenia AAFP 2014

1. In adolescents presenting with problem behaviours, consider schizophrenia in the differential diagnosis.

What you should study: see also Priority Topic Behavioural Problems

✓ Recognition and Ddx of Psychosis AAFP 2015

2. In “apparently” stable patients with schizophrenia (e.g., those who are not floridly psychotic), provide regular or periodic assessment in a structured fashion e.g., positive and negative symptoms, their performance of activities of daily living, and the level of social functioning at each visit:

- seeking collateral information from family members and other caregivers to develop a more complete assessment of symptoms and functional status;

- competency to accept or refuse treatment, and document specifically;

- suicidal and homicidal ideation, as well as the risk for violence;

- medication compliance and side effects.

What you should study: see also Priority Topics Mental Competency, Depression and Suicide

Be sure to assess: symptoms, function, medication, risk of danger (suicide, homicide, violence), substance use, collateral information, competency

✓ Just do it!
3. In all patients presenting with **psychotic** symptoms, inquire about **substance use and abuse**.

**What you should study:**

- ✓ **Recognition and Ddx of Psychosis AAFP 2015**

4. Consider the possibility of **substance abuse** and look for it in patients with schizophrenia, as this is a population at risk.

**What you should study:**

- ✓ **Schizophrenia and Substance Use**

5. In patients with schizophrenia, **assess and treat substance abuse** appropriately.

**What you should study:**

- ✓ **Primary Care Approach to Substance Misuse AAFP 2013**
  - **NB: this article uses DSM-IV definitions**

6. In **decompensating** patients with schizophrenia, determine:

- if **substance abuse** is contributory.

- the role of **medication compliance** and **side-effect problems**.

- if **psychosocial supports** have changed.

**What you should study:**

- ✓ **Les nouveaux antipsychotiques Prise 2 MduQ 2014**
- ✓ **Les antipsychotiques atypiques a toutes les sauces MduQ 2012**
7. Diagnose and treat serious complications/side effects of antipsychotic medications (e.g., neuroleptic malignant syndrome, tardive dyskinesia).

**What you should study:**

- Adverse Effects of Antipsychotic Medications AAFP 2010
- Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome Am J Psychiatry 2007
- La dyskinesie tardive - toujours d'actualité MduQ 2012

8. Include psychosocial supports (e.g., housing, family support, disability issues, vocational rehabilitation) as part of the treatment plan for patients with schizophrenia.

**What you should study:**

- Just do it!

We also have the full Diagnostic Criteria from the DSM-5 for you: (also available via McGill library - search DSM-5)

- Brief Psychotic Disorder
- Delusional Disorder
- Psychotic disorder due to Medical condition
- Schizoaffective Disorder
- Schizophreniform disorder
- Schizophrenia
- Substance-induced Psychotic Disorder