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2010 : March 2010 - New Hot Papers : Stefan Leucht Talks About a New Discovery in Antipsychotic Drugs

new hot papers - 2010

March 2010



Stefan Leucht talks with ScienceWatch.com and answers a few questions about this month's New Hot Paper in the field of Psychiatry/Psychology.



Article Title: A Meta-Analysis of Head-to-Head Comparisons of Second-Generation Antipsychotics in the Treatment of Schizophrenia

Authors: **Leucht, S**;Komossa, K;Rummel-Kluge, C;Corves, C;Hunger, H; Schmid, F;Lobos, CA;Schwarz, S;Davis, JM
 Journal: AMER J PSYCHIAT, Volume: 166, Issue: 2, Page: 152-163, Year: FEB 2009

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 * Tech Univ Munich, Klinikum Rechts Isar, Dept Psychiat & Psychotherapy, D-81675 Munich, Germany.
 (addresses have been truncated.)

SW: Why do you think your paper is highly cited?

The topic is very important for clinicians. There is a heated debate whether second-generation antipsychotic drugs differ in efficacy. We found that there are some differences. This also challenges a psychiatric dogma that all antipsychotic drugs are equally efficacious.

SW: Does it describe a new discovery, methodology, or synthesis of knowledge?

It's mainly a synthesis of knowledge, but in part, also a new discovery— antipsychotic drugs differ in efficacy.

SW: Would you summarize the significance of your paper in layman's terms?

The meta-analysis showed that some second generation antipsychotic drugs are somewhat more efficacious than others. Although the differences were not very big, this finding challenges a dogma that all antipsychotic drugs are equally efficacious.

SW: How did you become involved in this research, and were there any problems along the way?

Dr. Stefan Leucht on pharmacological treatment of schizophrenia

I got interested in evidence-based medicine more than 10 years ago and remained fascinated by it ever since. There was an initial skepticism towards systematic reviews and meta-analyses, but nowadays these are accepted methods.

SW: Where do you see your research leading in the future?

I want to follow up on evidence-based medicine, but enter into an even more global perspective.

SW: Do you foresee any social or political implications for your research?

Generally, these findings are important for decision-makers and thus, theoretically, can have an important impact.

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KEYWORDS: CLINICAL-TRIALS; ATYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTICS; DOSE-RESPONSE; CLOZAPINE.

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