

A Comparative Study of Risperidone and Aripiprazole in Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder in Children Under Six Years Old: A Randomized Double-Blind Study.

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Abstract:

Background:

Stimulants are not very effective on attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) children under 6 years old. The most common medication that is used in this range of age is Risperidone. Evaluating the safety and efficacy of Aripiprazole versus Risperidone for treating children under 6 years suffering from ADHD was the aim of this study.

Methods:

During this double-blind clinical trial, 34 children aged 3-6 years who were diagnosed with ADHD, received treatments with Aripiprazole or Risperidone randomly for 12 weeks. Follow-up measures comprised, CGAS, the ADHD-RS, CPRS and side effect checklist.

Results:

The findings revealed that 20 patients in Risperidone group (including 13 boys and 7 girls) and 20 patients in Aripiprazole group (including 13 boys and 7 girls) had at least one follow-up examination. After 12 weeks of the study, both medications showed distinct improvements in ADHD RS ($P < 0.001$), CPRS ($P < 0.001$) and CGAS ($P < 0.001$) scores. The statistic difference between them was not significantly different. The most common side effects in Risperidone group were reported to be panic (20%), nausea and vomiting (20%), while in Aripiprazole they were reported to be increased appetite (25%) and somnolence (15%).

Conclusions:

The findings revealed that both Risperidone and Aripiprazole are effective in treating ADHD children under 6 years old and there was no significant difference between the two drugs. Children can tolerate them well. Aripiprazole effect on children showed itself earlier compared to Risperidone.