

Hyponatremia in Patients with Mental Disorders

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INTRODUCTION

Hyponatremia is a potentially dangerous phenomenon that commonly implicates the treatment of psychiatric patients. It is defined as a plasma sodium level below 135 mmol/L, and appears with symptoms such as lethargy, restlessness, disorientation and seizures. The prevalence of hyponatremia in patients with mental disorder ranges from 0.04% (1) to 6.49% (2). Differential diagnoses for hyponatremia are disorders related to renal losses (use of thiazides, loop diuretics, osmotic diuresis, salt losing nephropathies, renal failure), gastrointestinal and third place losses, edematous conditions, antidiuretic hormone (ADH) excess (syndrome of inappropriate ADH secretion-SIADH, mineralocorticoid deficiency, hypothyroidism), primary polydipsia, reset osmostat syndrome, hyperglycemia and hyperlipidemia in form of pseudohyponatremia (3)

Obsessive compulsive disorders, delusional thoughts, xerostomia associated with anticholinergic side effects as well as SIADH syndrome are conditions related to hyponatremia in patients with mental disorder. Psychogenic (primary) polydipsia is a disorder with a significant morbidity and mortality affecting 6% to 20% of patients with mental disorder (4-6). Psychogenic polydipsia is relatively common in this population, with a study supporting that up to 70% of institutionalized patients with schizophrenia consume greater than average amounts of water (7). Nevertheless, only one-fifth to one-third of polydipsic patients will experience symptomatic hyponatremia (8). The syndrome of psychosis, intermittent hyponatremia, and polydipsia (PIP syndrome) is manifest clinically as polydipsia and intermittent hyponatremia and its pathophysiology is based on defects on thirst regulation, inappropriate arginine vasopressin (AVP) secretion and excessive response to AVP by the renal tubules. There are studies that correlate nicotine and caffeine abuse, treatment with anticholinergic or certain psychotropic

medications, substance abuse, concurrent diagnoses of schizophrenia and alcohol abuse with PIP syndrome (9).

Hyponatremia has been associated with a wide range of psychiatric medication. During treatment with SSRIs, it can affect 0.5 to 25% of patients (10). Especially fluoxetine but also sertraline, paroxetine (11), citalopram and fluvoxamine have been reported for possible correlation with hyponatremia (12-15). There are also case reports that implicate escitalopram, with hyponatremia and SIADH (12,13-17). SSRIs combined with diuretics and angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, induce a 10-fold risk increase of hyponatremia comparing to use of SSRIs alone (1). Among patients treated with SSRIs, women of age greater than 65 years, with history of pneumonia, low body weight, low baseline sodium and concurrent use of diuretics are more possible to suffer from hyponatremia (18).

Regarding the rest psychiatric medication, tricyclic antidepressants, monoamine oxidase inhibitors (19), duloxetine (20), desvenlafaxine (21), bupropion (22,23), mirtazapine (24), carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine(19), trazodone(25), sodium valproate (19), typical (19) and atypical antipsychotic agents (25,26) including quetiapine (27) and aripiprazole (28,29), have also been reported to implicate SIADH and hyponatremia. Venlafaxine is also accused to induce hyponatremia (19, 30-32) and when combined with SSRIs it is 5.6 times more likely to cause this electrolyte imbalance(33).

In general, older age, use of diuretics (30) and generally co-mediations known to induce hyponatremia, severe physical illness (34), female gender (12,13,34), low bodyweight (35), higher dose of SSRIs (36) and diagnosis of a mood disorder (25) are assumed to be risk factors for the development of hyponatremia in patients with mental disorder.

In our study we aimed to investigate the prevalence of hyponatremia in inpatients with mental disorders and the

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possible correlations between demographical features, medications and hyponatremia in this group of patients.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Data was collected from the medical records of patients that were admitted in the Internal Medicine Department of Psychiatric Hospital of Thessaloniki from May 2012 to June 2016 through an observational retrospective study. Patients had given a blood sample for a complete blood count at their admission to the internal medicine department.

From the initial population of inpatients, the following patients were excluded: patients without a psychiatric diagnosis, patients with hypervolemic hyponatremia such as cirrhosis and patients with hypothyroidism and TSH > 4,1mIU/L. Incidents of pseudohyponatremia due to hyperglycemia, were corrected according to the type that a serum glucose increase of 100mg/dL, causes a serum sodium reduction of 1,6 mEq/L. The remaining population included 501 patients. Patients with sodium serum levels \leq 135 mEq/L, were considered to have hyponatremia.

Statistical analysis was conducted using SPSS 21.0. Variables that were studied were age, BMI, gender, smoking, educational level, marital status, ethnicity, comorbidities, reason of admission to internal medicine department, psychiatric diagnosis, laboratory data and psychiatric, antihypertensive, hypolipidemic and hypoglycemic medication. Univariate level associations between the different socio-demographic, clinical, laboratory and pharmacological variables were made with t-tests, Chi-Square tests, or Fisher's Exact test, as appropriate. P-values less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant.

The anonymity of the patients was maintained and only medical personnel conducted the study after the approval of the Psychiatric Hospital Ethics Committee (protocol number: 197-26/9/2016).

RESULTS

The population that satisfied the study criteria included 501 patients. Among them, 108 patients had hyponatremia (21.6%). Among patients with mental disorder and hyponatremia, 78.7% were male and 21.3% female. They had a mean age of 59 years and a mean BMI of 26.6 kg/m². Regarding their educational level, 3.7% of patients with hyponatremia were illiterate and 38% of them had attended the elementary school. Only 13.9% were married and 86.1% were unmarried/widowed or divorced. The majority of the patients were smokers (72.6%) and hypertension was detected in 39.6% of the patients (Table 1).

Table 1: Demographical characteristics and comorbidities.

	Percentage
Male	78.7%
Female	21.3%
Smokers	72.5%

Hypertension	39.6%
Hyperlipidemia	16.2%
Coronary artery disease	10.2%
Diabetes Melitus 2	15.2%
Illiterate educational level	3.7%
Elementary school	38%
High school	6.5%
College/ University	2.8%
Greek nationality	91.7%
Non-greek nationality	8.3%
Married	13.9%
Unmarried/widowed/divorced	86.1%

Patients with hyponatremia, as presented in Table 2, had an elevated mean erythrocyte sedimentation rate (37mm/h), elevated blood glucose levels (122.4 mg/dl). Hct, Hb, WBCs, Urea, creatinine, SGOT, SGPT, cholesterol, triglycerides, HDL, LDL, HbA1c were within the normal range.

Table 2: Laboratory results of patients with hyponatremia.

	Mean
Hct (%)	36.6
Hb (g/dl)	12.5
WBCs	9,259
ESR(erythrocyte sedimentation rate, mm/h)	37
Glucose (mg/dl)	122.4
Urea (mg/dl)	37
Creatinine (mg/dl)	1
SGOT (U/L)	35.7
SGPT (U/L)	31.4
Cholesterol (mg/dl)	167
Triglycerides (mg/dl)	115.9
HDL (mg/dl)	49.5
LDL (mg/dl)	98.1

HbA1c (%)	6.5
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Psychotic patients accounted for 58.4% of total population. Nevertheless, patients with psychosis accounted for 77.6% of patients with hyponatremia. Among hyponatremic patients, 37.4% of them had schizophrenia and 40.2% other types of psychosis. Among the rest of the population with hyponatremia, 13.1% of patients had mood disorders (5.6% and 7.5% for depression and bipolar disorder respectively), 3.7% had a personality disorder, 3.7% suffered from organic psychosyndrome and 1.9% of them from alcohol related disorders (Table 3).

Table 3: Distribution of psychiatric diagnoses in total population and in population with hyponatremia.

Mental disorder	Total population	Hyponatremic patients
Psychosis	58.4%	77.6%
- Schizophrenia	22.6%	37.4%
-Other Psychoses	35.8%	40.2%
Mood disorders	18.9%	13.1%
-Depression	12.6%	5.6%
-Bipolar Disorder	6.3%	7.5%
Personality disorders	3.5%	3.7%
Alcoholism	14.8%	1.9%
Organic psychosyndrome	3.7%	3.7%
Other	0.8%	0%
Total	100%	100%

Among the patients with hyponatremia, 24.1% were admitted to the Internal Medicine department due to electrolyte imbalances and 15.7% specifically for hyponatremia. The rest of them were admitted with a number of different diagnoses (data not shown).

In order to study the correlation between medication and hyponatremia, we estimated the percentage of hyponatremia among population taking each drug. Drugs that were studied, were benzodiazepines, SSRIs, SNRIs, atypical and typical antipsychotics, anticonvulsants as well as antihypertensive, hypoglycemic and hypolipidemic agents and others (Tables 4, 5).

Table 4: Psychiatric drug distribution in patients with hyponatremia.

Psychiatric medication (number of patients taking the drug in total population)	Frequency in patients with hyponatremia	P-value	Odds ratio/ 95% Confidence Interval
SNRIs (n=12)	25%	0.72	0.82[0.218,3.084]
SSRIs (n=97)	26.8%	0.17	0.69 [0.41,1.15]
BENZODIAZEPINES (n=162)	30.2%	0.02	0.486 [0.31,0.752]
ATYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTICS (n=249)	34.1%	0.00	0.194 [0.11,0.32]
TYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTICS (n=51)	27.5%	0.28	0.69 [0.36, 1.34]
ANTICONVULSANTS (n=80)	33.8%	0.007	0.46 [0.27,0.78]
OTHERS (n=143)	7%	0.000	5 [2,53, 9.92]
SNRIs			
Duloxetine (n=10)	20%	1	1.1 [0.23, 5.26]
Venlafaxine (n=2)	50%	0.38	0.27 [0.01, 4.4]
SSRIs			
Citalopram (n=28)	28.6%	0.34	0.67 [0.28, 1.56]
Escitalopram (n=33)	9.1%	0.081	2.8 [0.86, 9.67]
Fluoxetine (n=13)	30.8%	0.49	0.6 [0.18, 2]
Sertraline (n=16)	25%	0.75	0.81 [0.25, 2.5]
Paroxetine (n=7)	100%	0.000	0.93 [0.89, 0.98]
BENZODIAZEPINES			
Bromazepam (n=9)	44.4%	0.1	0.33 [0.08, 1.27]

Alprazolam (n=13)	7.7%	0.31	3.37 [0.43, 26.21]
Clonazepam (n=6)	33.3%	0.61	0.54 [0.098, 3]
Lorazepam (n=95)	32.6%	0.005	0.48 [0.29, 0.79]
Chlorodiazepoxide (n=3)	0%	1	1 [0.99, 1]
Diazepam (n=44)	25%	0.566	0.8 [0.39, 1.65]
ATYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTICS			
Olanzapine (n=73)	31.5%	0.031	0.53 [0.31, 0.93]
Clozapine (n=24)	41.7%	0.021	0.36 [0.15, 0.84]
Quetiapine (n=93)	35.5%	0.001	0.41 [0.25, 0.67]
Risperidone (n=70)	27.1%	0.21	0.69 [0.39, 1.24]
Ziprasidone (n=2)	50%	0.38	0.27 [0.01, 4.4]
Paliperidone (n=6)	66.7%	0.022	0.13 [0.02, 0.73]
Amisulpride (n=29)	37.9%	0.036	0.42 [0.19, 0.92]
Aripiprazole (n=3)	33.3%	0.51	0.54 [0.04, 6]
TYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTICS			
Haloperidol (n=127)	22.8%	0.7	0.9 [0.55, 1.46]
Chlorpromazine (n=2)	0%	1	1 [0.99, 1]
Levomepromazine (n=35)	31.4%	0.14	0.57 [0.27, 1.21]
Zuclopenthixole (n=6)	0%	0.34	1 [1,1]
Perphenazine (n=8)	25%	0.68	0.82 [0.16, 4.13]
Trifluoperazine (n=2)	50%	0.38	0.99 [0.97, 1]
ANTICONVULSANTS			

Carbamazepine (n=2)	100%	0.046	0.98 [0.95, 1]
Oxcarbamazepine (n=10)	50%	0.043	0.26 [0.07, 0.93]
Valproic Sodium (n=59)	33.9%	0.018	0.48 [0.26, 0.87]
Lamotrigine (n=6)	16.7%	1	1.37 [0.15, 11.92]
Topiramate (n=19)	15.8%	0.77	1.48 [0.42, 5.19]
OTHERS			
Lithium (n=4)	0%	0.58	1 [1,1]
Hydroxyzine (n=2)	0%	1	1 [0.99, 1]
Donepezil (n=5)	20%	1	1.1 [0.12, 9.94]
Biperiden (n=157)	27.4%	0.035	0.61 [0.39, 0.96]
Mirtazapine (n=24)	16.7%	0.79	1.34 [0.46, 4.16]
Amitriptyline (n=11)	18.2%	1	1.24 [0.26, 5.83]
Buspirone (n=3)	33.3%	0.51	0.54 [0.04, 6.09]
Table 5: Non psychiatric drug distribution in hyponatremic patients.			
Angiotensin II receptor blockers (n=63)	17.5%	0.51	1.34 [0.67, 2.67]
Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors (n=29)	34.5%	0.1	0.49 [0.22, 1.1]
Calcium channel blockers			
Amlodipine (n=45)	35.6%	0.022	0.45 [0.23, 0.87]
Barnidipine (n=6)	66.7%	0.022	0.13 [0.02, 0.73]
Felodipine (n=2)	0%	1	1 [0.98, 1]
Verapamil (n=3)	33.3%	0.51	0.54 [0.04, 6]
HYPOLIPIDEMIC AGENTS			

Paravastatin (n=9)	11.1%	0.69	2.22 [0.27, 17.9]
Simvastatin (n=33)	12.1%	0.19	2 [0.71, 6]
Atorvastatin (n=47)	17%	0.57	1.37 [0.62, 3]
Rosuvastatin (n=2)	50%	0.38	0.27 [0.01, 4.4]
Fenofibrate (n=10)	30%	0.45	0.63 [0.16, 2.49]
Ezetimibe (n=2)	0%	1	1 [0.99, 1]
HYPOGLYCEMIC AGENTS			
Metformin (n=68)	11.8%	0.039	2.25 [1, 4.86]
Insulin (n=10)	20%	1	1.1 [0.23, 5.26]
Sitagliptin (n=20)	15%	0.58	1.58 [0.45, 5.5]
Vidagliptin (n=14)	28.6%	0.51	0.67 [0.2, 2.2]
Linagliptin (n=2)	50%	0.38	0.27 [0.01, 4.4]
Gliclazide (n=2)	0%	1	1 [0.99, 1]

Benzodiazepines, atypical antipsychotics and anticonvulsants in general were found to cause hyponatremia in statistical significant percentages of 30.2% ($X^2(1,n=501)=10.69$, $p=0.02$, $OR=0.48$, $CI[0.31,0.752]$), 34.1% ($X^2(1,n=501)=46.32$, $p=0$, $OR=0.194$, $CI[0.11, 0.32]$), and 33.8% ($X^2(1,n=501)=8.37$, $p=0.007$, $OR=0.46$, $CI[0.27, 0.78]$) respectively.

Benzodiazepines that were studied were bromazepam, alprazolam, clonazepam, lorazepam, chlorodiazepoxide and diazepam. Only lorazepam was found to be a statistically significant cause of hyponatremia with a percentage of 32.6% and $X^2(1,n=501)=8.503$, $p=0.005$, $OR=0.48$, $CI[0.29, 0.79]$. That meant that of the 95 patients that took lorazepam, 32.6% of them were found to have hyponatremia.

Among SNRIs, duloxetine and venlafaxine were studied, but neither of them showed a statistically significant correlation with hyponatremia.

SSRIs that were studied were citalopram, escitalopram, fluoxetine, sertraline and paroxetine. Only paroxetine had a statistically significant correlation with hyponatremia. All 7 patients that took paroxetine had hyponatremia. ($X^2(1,n=501)=25.83$, $p=0$, $OR=0.93$, $CI[0.89,0.98]$).

Atypical antipsychotics that were studied were olanzapine, clozapine, quetiapine, risperidone, ziprasidone, paliperidone, amisulpride and aripiprazole. Of all patients that took

olanzapine, 31.5% were found to have hyponatremia ($X^2(1,n=501)=5$, $p=0.031$, $OR=0.53$, $CI[0.31,0.93]$). Prevalence of hyponatremia among patients taking clozapine was 41.7% ($X^2(1,n=501)=6.02$, $p=0.02$, $OR=0.36$, $CI[0.15,0.84]$), taking quetiapine 35.5% ($X^2(1,n=501)=13.09$, $p=0.001$, $OR=0.41$, $CI[0.25,0.67]$), taking paliperidone 66.7% ($X^2(1,n=501)=7.3$, $p=0.02$, $OR=0.13$, $CI[0.02, 0.73]$) and taking amisulpride 37.9% ($X^2(1,n=501)=4.88$, $p=0.036$, $OR=0.42$, $CI[0.19, 0.92]$).

Among typical antipsychotics that were studied, such as haloperidol, chlorpromazine, zuclopenthixole, perphenazine, trifluoperazine, none of them was found to have a statistically significant correlation with hyponatremia.

Anticonvulsants that were studied were carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine, valproic sodium, lamotrigine and topiramate. Statistically significant results were found for carbamazepine - both patients that took the agent had hyponatremia, ($X^2(1,n=501)=7.3$, $p=0.046$, $OR=0.98$, $CI[0.95,1]$), oxcarbazepine (prevalence of hyponatremia 50%, $X^2(1,n=501)=4.88$, $p=0.043$, $OR=0.26$, $CI[0.07,0.93]$) and valproic sodium (prevalence 33.9%, $X^2(1,n=501)=6.02$, $p=0.018$, $OR=0.48$, $CI[0.26,0.87]$).

Other agents that were studied were lithium, hydroxyzine, donepezil, biperiden, mirtazapine, amitriptyline and buspirone. Among them only biperiden showed a statistically significant correlation with hyponatremia, with prevalence of 27.4% ($X^2(1,n=501)=4.59$, $p=0.035$, $OR=0.61$, $CI[0.39,0.96]$).

Regarding antihypertensive medication, among aldosterone antagonists, central acting α_2 adrenergic agonists, diuretics, β -blockers, angiotensin II receptor blockers, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors and calcium channel blockers, only the latter had a statistically significant correlation with hyponatremia, with prevalence 36.8% ($X^2(1,n=501)=8.88$, $p=0.006$, $OR=0.41$, $CI[0.23,0.75]$). Among calcium channel blockers, amlodipine and barnidipine had statistically significant results with percentages of hyponatremia 35.6% ($X^2(1,n=501)=5.73$, $p=0.022$, $OR=0.45$, $CI[0.23, 0.87]$), and 66.7% ($X^2(1,n=501)=7.3$, $p=0.022$, $OR=0.13$, $CI[0.02,0.73]$) respectively.

Hypolipidemic agents such as paravastatin, simvastatin, atorvastatin, rosvastatin, fenofibrate and ezetimibe did not show statistically significant results.

Finally, among hypoglycemic agents that were studied, such as metformin, insulin, sidagliptin, vidagliptin, linagliptin and gliclazide, only metformin showed statistically significant results with percentage of 11.8% ($X^2(1,n=501)=4.46$, $p=0.039$, $OR=2.25$, $CI[1,4.86]$).

DISCUSSION

In a population of patients with mental disorder that were eligible for our study, the prevalence of hyponatremia was 21.6%. This is a very high percentage compared to other studies, whereas the highest percentage was 6.49% in a population of 1000 inpatients with mental disorder (2).

According to our findings, psychotic patients had a greater tendency to show hyponatremia, since they accounted for 77.6% of patients with hyponatremia, with 37.4% of them having schizophrenia and 40.2% other types of psychosis. Regarding mood disorders, the prevalence of hyponatremia was 13.1% with 5.6% of them having depression and 7.5% bipolar disorder. On the contrary, Lange-Asschenfeldt et al. in 2013, in a large retrospective study of 7113 inpatients with mental disorder, found that mood disorders are associated with more severe hyponatremia (25).

The positive association between most of SSRIs and hyponatremia, indicated by multiple studies (12-17), was not confirmed by our findings, neither by Lange-Asschenfeldt et al. in 2013. More specifically, in our study, among SSRIs only paroxetine was found to have a statistically significant correlation with hyponatremia, since all 7 patients who took it had hyponatremia.

In our study, most of atypical antipsychotics, as confirmed by various studies and case reports (25-29) correlated with hyponatremia. Olanzapine 31.5%, clozapine 41.7%, quetiapine 41.7%, paliperidone 66.7% and amisulpride 37.9%. On the contrary, none of the typical antipsychotics, as supported by Liamis et al. 2008 in a review of drug induced hyponatremia, had a statistically significant association with hyponatremia in our study.

Finally, among classes of antihypertensive medication, only calcium channel blockers were found to have a positive correlation with hyponatremia and specifically amlodipine (35.6%) and barnidipine (66.7%) in contrast with other studies that indicate diuretics (25,30) and angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors (25) as a risk factor for hyponatremia.

The 27.4% of patients who took biperiden and had hyponatremia is not considered to be assessable due to the supplementary use of the drug for the extrapyramidal effects of antipsychotics. Among benzodiazepines, patients who were under treatment with lorazepam, had hyponatremia in a percentage of 32.6%. Among anticonvulsants, carbamazepine, oxcarbazepine and valproic sodium were also found to cause hyponatremia in significant degree. Nevertheless, due to the rare use of the above drugs as a monotherapy in inpatients with mental disorder, these results were not considered assessable, too.

Furthermore, a limitation of our study was that drugs could not be associated with hyponatremia as monotherapy, as they were a multiple drug medication.

CONCLUSION

In our study we found a high prevalence of hyponatremia in inpatients with mental disorder. Male gender, smokers, elevated ESR as well as the presence of psychosis seemed to be risk factors for hyponatremia in inpatients with mental disorder. Most of atypical antipsychotics and anticonvulsants, only paroxetine amongst SSRIs and calcium channel blockers were included in medication accused for hyponatremia. Close monitoring of inpatients with mental disorder with symptoms of

polydipsia, timely change of medication implicating hyponatremia, regular laboratory and clinical reevaluation of patients with low plasma sodium levels could improve the diagnosis and outcome of hyponatremia that so commonly implicates the treatment of patients with mental disorder.

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