Background
The natural progression of the dopamine hypothesis for schizophrenia was to formulate drugs with specific action on D2 receptor sites.

Sulpiride, such a drug, formulated in 1960s, is reported to have lower adverse effects compared to older antipsychotics.

It has also been suggested to be of particular value for negative symptoms.

The new generation of antipsychotic drugs are also said to have a moderate side effect profile but whether inexpensive sulpiride is a real alternative to these drugs is unknown.

Methods
Searching

Selection criteria
Study methodology - randomised trials
Participants - people with a diagnosis of schizophrenia or ‘serious/chronic mental illness’ or ‘psychotic illness
Interventions - sulpiride versus placebo or any antipsychotic drug

Trial selection and data analysis
Studies were independently inspected and quality assessed

Relevant data were extracted and assimilated within RevMan Software.

Intention-to-treat analyses were undertaken for dichotomous data and relative risk (RR) and numbers needed to treat/harm (NNT/H) calculated.

Search term
(abilit or championyl or coolspan or col-sulpir or digton or dixbon or dobre or dogmatil or doxmanil or eglonyl or equild or eusulpid or guastil or isnamid or kapiride or lavodina or lebopride or lusedan or mirbanil or mirbidil or misulvan or neuromyfar or normum or omperan or psicocen or quindil or satol or sernevin or sicofoenol or sulpiride or supirisedan or suprium or sursumid or tepavil or tonofit or vulgar or vipral) in combination with Cochrane Schizophrenia Group’s term for trials and schizophrenia.

Results
The search
223 unique citations identified
120 clearly not relevant
103 papers (82 studies) acquired
21 more papers identified in references
60 studies excluded
18 studies included
6 await assessment

Conclusions
Sulpiride may be an effective antipsychotic drug but evidence is limited and data relating to claims for its value against negative symptoms are not trial-based.

Sulpiride vs typical antipsychotics
Outcome: Movement disorders - use of antiparkinsonian medication

Sulpiride vs typical antipsychotics
Outcome: Effects on negative symptoms
No clear data exist from within trials of the value, or otherwise, of sulpiride for symptoms such as avolition, apathy, bradykinesia and poverty of thought.

References

Comments
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