



TYPICAL AND ATYPICAL ANTIPSYCHOTIC IN THE TREATMENT OF BPSD

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Behavioral symptoms start to appear in mild and moderate dementia and become increasingly severe with the progression of the disease. Agitation, aggressiveness, and psychosis can be seen in Alzheimer's disease, and in particular are common manifestations in Lewy body dementia. It is the behavioral disturbances rather than the cognitive disorders that are more often the cause of the institutionalization of these patients because of the heavy assistance and emotional burden they represent for caregivers. Traditionally, these kinds of symptoms were controlled by classical antipsychotic agents, which after long-term use cause severe extrapyramidal effects, late dyskinesia, sedation, orthostatic hypotension, and cognitive function impairment. More recently, atypical antipsychotic agents have shown a better tolerability profile, with a reduced incidence of extrapyramidal effects, orthostatic hypotension, sedation, and a reduced impact on cognitive function.