

OFF-LABEL USE OF DRUGS IN PSYCHIATRY

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Introduction. Drugs are the strictly controlled products in the world and prescribed by a physician in accordance with the instructions. But a new style of using "off-label use" drugs has appeared in medical practice in recent decades, when doctors prescribed medications for other indications, dose, route of injection and other age group, which instructions had not have.

The purpose of study. To analyze the frequency and range of prescription off-label drugs in psychiatry.

Materials and methods. Analysis and systematization of the experience of psychiatrists in using off-label style.

Results. Psychiatry is the second area in medicine after pediatrics, where the off-label style is widely used: 1/5 of all off-label drugs are the medications used in psychiatry. An examples of the use of such drugs are the appointments: Carbamazepine (anticonvulsant) for the treatment of bipolar disorders; Gabapentin (anticonvulsant) – for the treatment of psychosis, migraine; Midazolam, as a sedative, antipsychotic and antidepressant drug, and as an additional therapy for insomnia; Buprenorphine (narcotic analgesic) – with depression. There were changes among the used antipsychotic off-label drugs from 84% in 1995 to 93% in 2008. With insomnia, off-label antidepressants are used for 45% of patients. Clonidine, as an off-label drug, is used to treat attention deficit disorder.

Conclusions. Today, off-label medications are an important part of psychiatric practice worldwide and knowledge of off-label drug information will allow practicing clinicians to be more aware of alternative treatments and innovative use of traditional medicines.