Lynx Program

Responses about the Experience of LAI
Reason for the question

- Collected quantitative data showing positive outcomes of LAI
- Desire to acquire qualitative information from clients using LAI
- Open ended questions to allow clients to share experiences
How many shared

- Identified 22 EPI clients using LAI
- Out of 22 clients 5 were stated by case managers as not able to talk about the experience at the time and 3 declined
- Case managers were able to acquire verbal feedback from remaining 14 identified clients
Discussion

- Experience of being on an injection?
- Any changes with being on an injection?
- Side effects? Different from oral meds?
- What it does for me?
Pros

- “It’s a reliable psychosis prevention”
- “I feel more resilient. That if something was to happen I could handle it and it is not going to go past the tipping point”
- “All symptoms gone within a few weeks”
- “Feel normal”
- “Easier to take”
- “Before I started the medication I didn’t really leave my house unless I had to and now that I am feeling better I am working a full time job”
- “Grounded”
- “Sleep is better...mood is better”
- “I really feel the difference between being well and being unwell...makes me feel well”
- “Relationships with others are better”
Pros

- “I’m more joyful”
- “Got well enough – came to realization that I had to take medication and had to stay on medication”
- “I think its excellent, way better then taking pills and so much less side effects. I think it’s a better choice then meds. Just do it once a month and it works”
- “I think that I have been more calm, my family has told me”
- I’ve been more social, been in school, been more positive, more stable”
- “While I was not sure I needed to be on it, I can now see that it has helped me. Things are less intense, I feel calmer.”
- “I think it’s improved my quality of life. I haven’t been back to the hospital for any reason so far”
Cons

- “Don’t want to be taking it”
- “If I get side effects...(concerned) about the length of time it will take to get out of my system”
- “Not in my control...can’t change it as I need to”
- “Bit down right before next dose and groggy/out of it right after”
- “It completely reduces my sex drive...And that is a really big con”
- “Drooling while sleeping”
- “Weight gain”
- “Body depression”
- “Hard to tell others about it”
- “Pain”...”but it got easier to deal with”
LAI Common Themes

- Helpful: 13
- Easy: 13
- Improved Quality of Life: 13
- Less side effects: 13
- Nothing good: 1
- Pain: 3
- Other - dizzy, groggy: 2

# of Participants
A qualitative study of the attitudes of patients in an early intervention service towards antipsychotic long-acting injections
Amlan K Das, Abid Malik and Peter M Haddad

- Study done in 2014 with 11 patients - mean age 24yrs
- “The lack of knowledge and misperceptions about LAIs that were identified indicate that patients need to be provided with balanced and accurate information about LAIs.”
- “some patients regard LAIs as stigmatizing and coercive...reserving LAIs as a treatment of last resort for “revolving door” patients is likely to reinforce negative perceptions.”
- “Antipsychotic prescribing should result from a shared decision-making process in which clinicians and patients openly discuss the pros and cons of different formulations and drugs.”
Important considerations

- Themes not different from consistently taken oral medications
  - Exceptions are frequency and pain
- Self-awareness
  - Endeavor to offer options objectively
- Good alternative vs only option
  - Person centered approach
Thank you!