

439

EFFECT OF EXCESSIVE MEDICATION DOSING ON HEALTH RESOURCE UTILIZATION OF POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER PATIENTS (A5), Christie Tran, Jonathan Lacro. VA San Diego Healthcare System, San Diego, CA (Christie.Tran@va.gov) IRB approval pending.

Due to the intervariability of symptoms in patients diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and the lack of many well designed studies, treatment algorithms do not currently exist for PTSD. Therefore, there is a need to explore the concept of polypharmacy, examine the prescribed doses of psychotropic medications, and compare the relationship between medication doses and health resource utilization in PTSD patients. In this retrospective chart review, 76 patients were included who were diagnosed with PTSD and had at least five active medications on their profiles. The health resource utilization of each patient was collected during the six months prior to the patient being on excessive doses of psychotropic medications and during the six months subsequent to starting these excessive doses. Data was collected from the computerized patient record system. Descriptive statistics, McNemar's test, and paired t test (or Wilcoxon test, where appropriate) will be used in the data analysis. A p value of 0.05 or less was considered to be statistically significant. A preliminary review has identified 27 patients who were prescribed doses of psychotropic medications in daily doses that were greater than those described in the Veterans Affairs/Department of

Defense PTSD Medication Dosing Guidelines. The full results of the study will be presented.