



Physician Fact Sheet on Schizophrenia in Persons with MR/DD

1. Schizophrenia is more common in patients with DD/MR than normal individuals.
2. Patients can manifest hallucinations and delusions; however, other symptoms such as apathy or psychosocial dysfunction are difficult to assess.
3. Hallucinations and delusions are simpler than those symptoms in normal persons with schizophrenia.
4. Schizophrenic symptoms probably persist into later life.
5. New antipsychotic medications are the treatment of choice for distressing symptoms produced by schizophrenia.
6. Avoid old, first generation antipsychotic medications in mentally retarded persons.
7. Anticholinergic medications in schizophrenic patients with DD/MR may produce excessive confusion.
8. Monotherapy is the best option to reduce psychosis and avoid adverse drug reactions.
9. Avoid polypharmacy with two antipsychotics or benzodiazepines.
10. A family history for schizophrenia increases the risk of a psychotic disorder in all patients.