Does scientific research on medication effectiveness have an impact on physician prescribing practices?

About This Study
This study evaluated physician prescribing practices before and after publication of three papers, each evaluating the effectiveness of anti-psychotic interventions for schizophrenia. If prescribers were affected by these publications, researchers anticipated an increase in olanzapine after the first paper was published, an increase in perphenazine after the second paper was published, and an increase in clozapine after the third paper was published. Results did not strongly support these hypotheses, with evidence of declines in the prescription rates of olanzapine, no changes in prescriptions of clozapine, and a small increase in prescriptions of perphenazine. These results suggest that prescribers are using other information to inform their prescribing decisions for individuals with schizophrenia. An increase in prescriptions for medications that show less effectiveness, but also less negative long term side effects was apparent in these data. As schizophrenia is a lifelong condition, negative long-term side effects are a factor prescribers may be taking into consideration when making prescribing decisions.

Read More
For more information, you can find the full study in the journal, *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*.