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## Antipsychotic ineffective in vets with PTSD

August 08, 2011

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Doctors have increasingly prescribed a class of drugs referred to as second-antipsychotics to veterans with post-traumatic stress who don't respond to But a study by researchers with the Veterans Administration found that a drug did not significantly reduce the severity of PTSD symptoms. It did not depression or anxiety, and it did not improve quality of life. The drug did c including fatigue, weight gain, drowsiness, and excess saliva.

Researchers randomly assigned 247 patients at VA outpatient medical cen the drug, called risperidone, or a placebo for six months. Participants had symptoms of military-related post-traumatic stress despite at least two rou with antidepressants.

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The researchers said their study should prompt a careful review of how thi veterans with PTSD.

**BOTTOM LINE:** An antipsychotic drug commonly prescribed to veterans found ineffective for that use.

**CAUTIONS:** Researchers did not enroll as many patients as they had hop group was almost entirely men. It is not clear whether the results can be a drugs of the same class.

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Journal of the American Medical Association, Aug

**More children hospitalized for psychiatric care** The number of chil adolescents in the United States admitted for psychiatric inpatient stays di increased between 1996 and 2007, as did the number of days they remainc

Between 1970 and the 1990s, psychiatric care was moving away from hosp

patients toward more outpatient treatment. But starting around 2004, ad Joseph C. Blader, a researcher at Stony Brook University School of Medicin the National Hospital Discharge Survey to look at how age groups were aff

For every 100,000 children ages 5 to 13, about 283 were discharged from a in 2007, up from 156 in 1996. The overall number of days spent in the hos children more than doubled. Among adolescents ages 14 to 19, discharges per 100,000 of 684 in 1996 to 969 in 2007, and the rate of inpatient days : percent. The numbers for seniors age 65 and older dropped slightly and st adults were more stable. Among all groups, the portion of inpatient days p insurance declined.

**BOTTOM LINE:** Psychiatric inpatient stays for children in the Untied St 1996 to 2007.

**CAUTIONS:** The survey included limited information about diagnosis, fa illness severity.

**WHERE TO FIND IT:** Archives of General Psychiatry, Aug. 1

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