

## Effects of Fluoxetine Added to Haloperidol in Chronic Schizophrenic Patients

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To assess the effect of fluoxetine added to haloperidol, we measured repeatedly the changes of plasma haloperidol concentrations and clinical effects in 16 chronic schizophrenic patients who taking haloperidol. Fluoxetine 20mg was added for the first 4 weeks, and dose was increased up to 60mg/day with 4 week interval according to their clinical effects. The scores of PANSS and its subscale tend to be lowered after adding fluoxetine without respect to the dose, though the differences were not significant statistically. Seven of 16 patients showed 30% or more decrease in PANSS total score and/or its subscale after adding fluoxetine. Parkinsonian symptoms were newly developed or aggravated in four patients at 40mg and six patients at 60mg dose of fluoxetine. Plasma haloperidol levels increased up to 45% of baseline level ( $5.56 \pm 1.93$  ng/ml/10mg dose) after adding fluoxetine, but the extent of level increase was not dependent on the fluoxetine dose. Most of the patients who showed prominent increase of haloperidol concentration after adding fluoxetine. Reduced haloperidol concentrations increased up to 150% of baseline level (3.0 ng/ml/10mg dose) according to the increase of plasma concentration of fluoxetine and norfluoxetine. These results suggest that fluoxetine added to haloperidol can produce therapeutic effect and/or side effect in some treatment-resistant schizophrenic patients and these effects seem to be not directly related to the plasma haloperidol level changes.

Key Word : Fluoxetine, Haloperidol, Drug Interaction, Schizophrenia