

A cost effective way of treating the homeless schizophrenic population in Edmonton & Alberta

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There are approximately 600 homeless schizophrenics in Edmonton, 1,900 homeless schizophrenics in Alberta & 19,000 homeless schizophrenics in Canada!(06% of the population are homeless schizophrenics. Source: www.schizophrenia.com)

My perspective is that at least for the schizophrenic segment of this population the cost would be a modest amount using the technology of Risperdal Consta.

Government and the public keep talking about solving the homeless problem. Ironically Risperdal Consta could solve the problem of schizophrenic homelessness without the bureaucracy or medical personnel. Without Risperdal Consta the government could spend many millions dollars treating homeless schizophrenics making any impact whatsoever.

Austin Mardon, Ph.D. a schizophrenic for 13 years has been on a medical study where he is receiving an atypical neuroleptic in an experiment for over three months says, "I have noticed a world of difference. It is like I am a new man! How many 1,900 homeless schizophrenics in Alberta could be saved from the nightmare of psychosis by getting this new drug?"

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Backrounder

A cost effective way of treating the homeless schizophrenic population in Edmonton & Alberta.

There are approximately 600 homeless schizophrenics in Edmonton, 1,900 homeless schizophrenics in Alberta & 19,000 homeless schizophrenics in Canada!(06% of the population are homeless schizophrenics. Source: www.schizophrenia.com)

My perspective is that at least for the schizophrenic segment of this population the cost would be a modest amount using the technology of Risperdal Consta. If the average dose of Risperdal Consta is approximately \$500 per homeless schizophrenic per month, then that means it would cost \$6,000 per year per person for that medication giving an injection of the medication every two weeks .To treat the 600 people in Edmonton with Risperdal Consta would cost \$3 million total per year.

I am extremely disturbed that Risperdal Consta is not on the formulary because it has the potential with the new technology of injectable atypical neuroleptics. It is impossible to guarantee or know whether a homeless or non-compliant schizophrenic has taken a pill every day. You would need to have an army of nurses following people around everyday giving them their medicine, and even then they could "cheek" their medicine. That is they could keep the medication in their cheek and then when no one is looking they could spit out the medication. But with Risperdal Consta, you would only need a nurse to give an injection once every two weeks, and a general practitioner to initially diagnose the homeless schizophrenic.

It is much easier to manage an injection once every two weeks logistically and financially than to give a pill every day. Government and the public keep talking about solving the homeless problem. Ironically Risperdal Consta could solve the problem of schizophrenic homelessness without the bureaucracy or medical personnel. Without Risperdal Consta the government could spend many millions dollars treating homeless schizophrenics making any impact whatsoever.

The solution is not more personnel or doctors but to get every homeless schizophrenic an injection of Risperdal Consta every two weeks. I know that not every person who is homeless with schizophrenia would respond positively to the treatment and recover, but if 50% recovered, that would mean that over 300 schizophrenic persons that are homeless in Edmonton and will live on the street and will be in a psychotic haze may be able to get sane enough to have a life.

The homeless schizophrenics are not homeless because they choose to be, but because they are incapable of functioning in society while unmedicated. When over ten Alberta families and recovered homeless schizophrenics were asked to comment

for this press release they felt they could not because of the stigma, guilt that they feel because they have schizophrenia.

It is just another disease but people are ashamed to be public about the illness due to negative societal repercussions.

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[You can find this press release here](#)