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# Early Intervention in Psychosis

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# Theoretical Course of Illness for Schizophrenia

**Prodromal Premorbid** phase phase Brief/ **Stable Psychotic** phase phase attenuated Cognitive, positive motor, or **Florid** Negative symptoms, symptoms and/ social deficits positive cognitive/social deficits, or functional functional decline decline symptoms

1. Adapted from Tandon R et al. Schizophr Res. 2009;110:1–23.



### Why Is Early Intervention in Schizophrenia Needed?

- Schizophrenia is a major source of disability in the US¹:
  - In 2010, estimated disability-adjusted life years per 100,000 persons was 242.4<sup>1</sup>
- According to market research, annual total cost in the US was estimated at \$155.7 billion (2013 US dollars)<sup>2</sup>:
  - Including \$37.7 billion in direct healthcare costs, \$9.3 billion in total direct nonhealthcare costs, and \$117.3 billion in total indirect costs (including unemployment and caregiving)
- Less than 20% of people with schizophrenia make a full recovery after the first episode<sup>3</sup>
- Early phase of psychosis may represent a "critical period" for determining long-term outcomes<sup>4</sup>
- Potential impact of early phase of psychosis<sup>5</sup>:
  - Traumatic, and drives disabling psychological responses
  - Accumulative cognitive disturbance

#### US. United States.

- Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. The State of US Health: Innovations, Insights, and Recommendations From the Global Burden of Disease Study. Seattle, WA: IHME; 2013. http://www.healthdata.org/sites/ default/files/files/policy\_report/2013/ USHealth/IHME\_ GBD\_USHealth\_FullReport.pdf. Accessed Aug 7, 2015;
- Data on file (HEOR-001);

- Cannon M et al. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry. 1996;61:604-613;
- 4. Birchwood M et al. *Br J Psychiatry Suppl.* 1998;172:53-59;
  - Mental Health Network NHS Confederation. IRIS guidelines update. Sept 2012. Available at: www.iris-initiative.org.uk/silo/files/iris-guidelines-update--september-2012.pdf. Accessed Aug 7, 2015.



### What Is Early Intervention in Psychosis?

- Elements of early intervention in psychosis<sup>1</sup>:
  - Early detection
  - Phase-specific treatment targeting to patients in the prodrome or early stages of psychosis, and directed at trying to prevent progression to psychosis or promoting recovery, respectively
- Primary aims described in the management of first-episode psychosis<sup>2</sup>:
  - Reduce time between the onset of psychotic symptoms and effective treatment
  - Accelerate the recovery process through effective biological and psychosocial interventions
  - Lessen the negative impact of psychosis on individuals and maximize social and work functioning
  - Prevent relapse and treatment resistance
- Marshall M et al. Cochrane Database Syst Rev, 2011 (6):CD004718. doi: 10.1002/14651858.CD004718.pub3;
- Spencer E et al. Adv Psychiatric Times. 2001;7:133-142.



### First 3 Years of Psychosis as a Critical Period

#### Socially<sup>1</sup>

- Psychosis affects young people at a key time for establishing social "capital" to draw on for their futures
- The longer these developmental processes are compromised, the worse the personal and social consequences will be

#### Psychologically<sup>1</sup>

- The experience of psychosis is traumatic and drives disabling psychological responses
- Accumulative cognitive disturbance

- These are the psychological engines of disability.
- The longer they persist, the more pervasive and enduring their effects will be

#### Cognitively<sup>2</sup>

 Prodromal deficits are significantly worsened at onset of psychosis and continue for several years (ie, over 20 years after onset)

- 1. Mental Health Network NHS Confederation. IRIS guidelines update. Sept 2012. Available at: www.iris-initiative.org.uk/silo/files/iris-guidelines-update--september-2012.pdf. Accessed Aug 7, 2015;
- 2. Keefe R. J Clin Psychiatry. 2014;75 Suppl 2:8-13.



# Medical Rationale for Early Intervention in This Population

#### Long duration of untreated psychosis is likely to be associated with:

- Longer time to remission<sup>1</sup>
- Decreased level of remission<sup>1</sup>
- More severe positive and negative symptoms<sup>1,2</sup>
- Poorer quality of life<sup>1,2</sup>
- More relapses<sup>3</sup>
- Greater cognitive impairment<sup>3</sup>
- Poorer treatment response<sup>4</sup>

Early phase of psychosis may represent a "critical period" for determining long-term outcomes<sup>5</sup>

- 1. Malla A et al. Aust N Z J Psychiatry. 2003;37:407-413;
- Harrigan SM et al. Psychol Med. 2003;33:97-110;
- Scully PJ et al. Psychol Med. 1997;27:1303-1310;

- 4. Haas GL et al. *J Psychiatric Res.* 1998;32:151-159;
- 5. Birchwood M et al. Br J Psychiatry Suppl. 1998;172:53-59.



# Role of Antipsychotic Medications in Early Intervention

- Studies have demonstrated that first-episode patients may often respond to low doses of antipsychotic medications<sup>1</sup>:
  - Some studies have shown that more than 80% of such patients who do not receive antipsychotic treatment may experience some recurrence of symptoms in the 5 years after remission<sup>1</sup>
- Antipsychotics should be offered in conjunction with psychosocial and vocational programs<sup>1</sup>
- Metabolic side effects are of concern with these young patients because there is a risk for longer term medical problems<sup>2</sup>
- Lehman AF et al. Am J Psychiatry. 2004;161(2 Suppl):1-56;
- 2. Robinson DG et al. Schizophr Bull. 2005;31:705-722.



### **Potential Barriers to Early Intervention**



- 1. McGorry PD et al. World Psychiatry. 2008;7:148-156;
- 2. Srihari VH et al. Psychiatr Clin North Am. 2012;35:613-631.



# Outreach and Support Intervention Services (OASIS): 1-Year Findings

- Over the course of 1 year of treatment, significant improvement versus baseline was seen in:
  - Positive and negative symptoms (p < 0.05)</li>
  - Role functioning (p < 0.001)</li>
  - Global functioning (p < 0.001)</li>
- In addition, the proportion of patients meeting symptom-remission and functional-remission criteria significantly increased (p < 0.001 and p < 0.05, respectively)</li>





### **OPUS: 10-Year Findings**

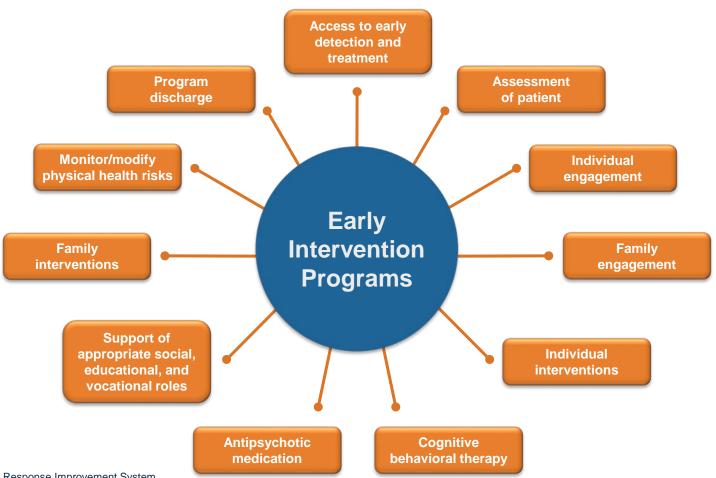
- There was follow-up with 347/547 patients
- Evidence of a differential 10-year course in the development of negative symptoms, psychiatric bed days, and possibly psychotic symptoms in favor of OPUS treatment compared with standard treatment:
  - Differences were driven by effects at earlier follow-ups and had diminished over time
- Statistically significant differences in the course of use of supported housing were present even after 8–10 years (p < 0.001)</li>
- There were not any differences between OPUS and standard treatment regarding income, work-related outcomes, or marital status

OPUS, Danish first-episode psychosis study.

1. Secher RG et al. Schiz Bull. 2015;41(3):617-626.



### IRIS: Components of Early Intervention Programs



IRIS, Incident Response Improvement System.

Mental Health Network NHS Confederation. IRIS guidelines update. Sept 2012. Available at: www.iris-initiative.org.uk/silo/files/iris-guidelines-update--september-2012.pdf. Accessed Aug 7, 2015.





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