Is remission in schizophrenia possible?

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KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Antipsychotics are the mainstay treatment for schizophrenia and can be administered either as monotherapy or in combination with complementary medications and interventions depending on the patient's specific set of symptoms.

Recovery from schizophrenia, understood not as a condition in which the patient no longer requires medication or psychiatric consultations, but rather as one in which he has a good quality of life, with long symptom-free periods and lasting functional remission, is possible.

The treatment of patients with schizophrenia, must not focus solely on mental health concerns but also on physical health, striking a balance between good efficacy and good tolerability.

The partial agonist cariprazine, not only exerts a broad spectrum of action over all the main factors of positive and negative symptoms, but is also characterised by a good tolerability profile, making it well suited to maintenance treatment as both monotherapy and in combination with other medications.

In their clinical practice, psychiatrists can adopt different treatment algorithms to transition patients through the various stages of their journey towards recovery, taking into consideration not only the prevalent symptoms and the tolerability of the medication prescribed, but also the potential rebound effects that may occur when tapering or transitioning from one therapy to another.

