

Clozapine Update: Which Patients Benefit and How Do We Know?

presented by

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Dr. Pearlson's obtained his medical degree from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in England. Following internship he completed a graduate degree in philosophy at Columbia University in New York and was then a resident, postdoctoral fellow and faculty member at Johns Hopkins University department of Psychiatry for many years, under Dr. Paul McHugh, where he was ultimately a professor of Psychiatry and founding director of the Division of Psychiatry Neuroimaging. Dr. Pearlson is founding director of the Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center (www.NRC-IOL.org) at the Institute of Living/Hartford Hospital in Hartford CT since 2002, is Research Director at IOL & tenured Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience at Yale University Medical School. Dr. Pearlson's research uses neuroimaging as a tool to address a broad array of questions regarding the neurobiology of major mental disorders, primarily psychosis and drug abuse. Important "firsts" in his research include showing that structural and functional brain changes associated with schizophrenia also occur in psychotic bipolar disorder, the relationship of structural and functional abnormalities in the superior temporal gyrus associated with hallucinations in schizophrenia, in exploring complex behaviors in the MRI scanner (for example simulated driving) to quantify disruptive effects of abused substances and the first demonstration of human in-vivo cocaine-mediated dopamine release using PET ligands. Dr. Pearlson is an NIMH MERIT awardee and has been awarded RO1 grants from NIAAA, NIDA, NIA and NIMH. He has been continuously NIH-funded for over 30 years. He has been previously awarded a NARSAD Distinguished Investigator Award, the Ziskind-Sommerfeld Research Award from the Society of Biological Psychiatry, the Albert M. Biele Lectureship from Jefferson Medical College, a Michael Visiting Professorship from the Weizmann Institute, and is on the editorial board of several journals including Biological Psychiatry and Schizophrenia Bulletin. He has been awarded the Stanley Dean award for schizophrenia research by the American College of Psychiatry and the APA's mentorship award. He has published over 850 peer-reviewed research articles and his h score is 142. He is also co-founder of the annual BrainDance Competition, which is open to high school and college students across New England. The BrainDance Awards encourage students to gain knowledge about psychiatric diseases and to develop a more tolerant and realistic perspective toward people with severe psychiatric problems.

His research interests include:

1. The role of mood and psychosis vulnerability genes in the brain as demonstrated through fMRI BOLD activation patterns, DTI connectivity measures and structural MRI volumes.
2. The psychopharmacology of abused substances, studied through effects on brain imaging and cognition, including explorations of effects of cannabinoids, cocaine and alcohol and the relationship of impulsivity to substance abuse.

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<https://hartfordhealthcare.zoom.us/j/93628840137>

Learning Objectives: *As a result of participating in this Live Activity, participants should be able to:*

1. Identify pluses and minuses of clozapine as an antipsychotic medication.
2. Understand the unique properties of this drug and their basis.
3. Discover the story of biological subtyping of psychosis patients and its relevance to clozapine prescribing.

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Credit Designation Statement: Hartford HealthCare designates this Live Activity for 1.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)[™]. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with their participation. This activity is approved for 1.25 ANCC contact hour(s).

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Financial Disclosures:

- Nothing to disclose: Ellen Blair (Nurse Planner); Michael Dewberry (Course Director); Godfrey Pearlson (Speaker); Bharat Narapareddy (Program Director); Erica Iyamu-Osagie (Social Work Planner); Paula Rego (Activity Coordinator); Javeed Sukhera (Co-Director and Sponsor);

