

# Schizophrenia: Ethics and Management

Case study of a schizophrenic person

# SCHIZOPHRENIA

- ❖ Schizophrenia is a chronic and complex mental health disorder
- ❖ Symptoms seen in Rachael – Hallucinations, delusions, disorganized speech and behavior, impaired cognitive ability, social withdrawal
- ❖ Relapse after 15 years has occurred for Rachael due to triggers such as death of her husband's parents, her daughter commencing year 12, and infection in her grandmother's toe
- ❖ Its pathophysiology includes abnormalities in neurotransmission

# PHARMACOLOGICAL THERAPY

- ❖ Despite having recovered from schizophrenia, Rachael still needs to be on maintenance therapy in order to prevent relapse
- ❖ Second-generation (atypical) antipsychotics – first line of treatment
- ❖ Preferred to first-generation antipsychotics because of lesser extrapyramidal symptoms
- ❖ Long-acting injectable antipsychotic medications

# ETHICAL ISSUES

- ❖ Truthfulness – telling the whole or partial truth to Rachael about her condition
- ❖ Telling the complete truth - Respect of Rachael's autonomy
- ❖ Telling partial truth – Ensuring continuity in care
- ❖ This is especially important in schizophrenics with paranoia

# NURSING INTERVENTION

- ❖ Provide a safe and therapeutic environment for Rachael to develop trust
- ❖ Accept Rachael's beliefs
- ❖ Build trust by not denying Rachael's beliefs
- ❖ Use reasonable doubt as a therapeutic measure

# MULTIDISCIPLINARY CARE

- ❖ A team of professionals working together to provide care
- ❖ Enable continuity of care
- ❖ Improve consumer health outcomes
- ❖ Enhance quality of life

# CONCLUSION

- ❖ Relapse of schizophrenia in Rachael after 15 years
- ❖ Symptoms – Delusions, hallucinations, paranoia, disorganized thought and speech, aggressive behavior
- ❖ Second generation of antipsychotics – maintenance therapy
- ❖ Create a safe and therapeutic environment
- ❖ A multidisciplinary approach

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