# 80-Day Starvation in a Patient with Autism and Bipolar Disorder Requiring ICU Stay: Court-Ordered Treatment and Response to Aripiprazole Maintena Injection in a Consultation-Liaison Setting

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# Introduction

- Court-ordered treatment of psychosis in the context of medical admission in co-morbid psychiatric treatment requires **unique** considerations.
- psychopharmacotherapy important component in treating psychosis-associated starvation, biopsychosocial approach involving an interdisciplinary team of psychiatrists, hospitalists, dieticians, psychologists, and family members is essential to effectively care for and treat patients.
- long-acting injectable (LAI) Further, antipsychotics are an underutilized treatment option with potential to improve patient outcomes.

### Case

- A 23-year-old male with a past psychiatric history of autism spectrum disorder, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia presented to the ED from an inpatient psychiatry unit for starvation ketoacidosis and poor PO intake for 2 weeks.
- He was diagnosed with schizophrenia at 16, with several inpatient psychiatry admissions, and previously responded to Abilify, with noted cessation of hallucinations, improved interactions, and less blunted affect.
- He has a history of medication nonadherence and recently showed increased paranoid behaviors, including excessive showering (9 times/day) and scrubbing his ears until bleeding due to auditory hallucinations.

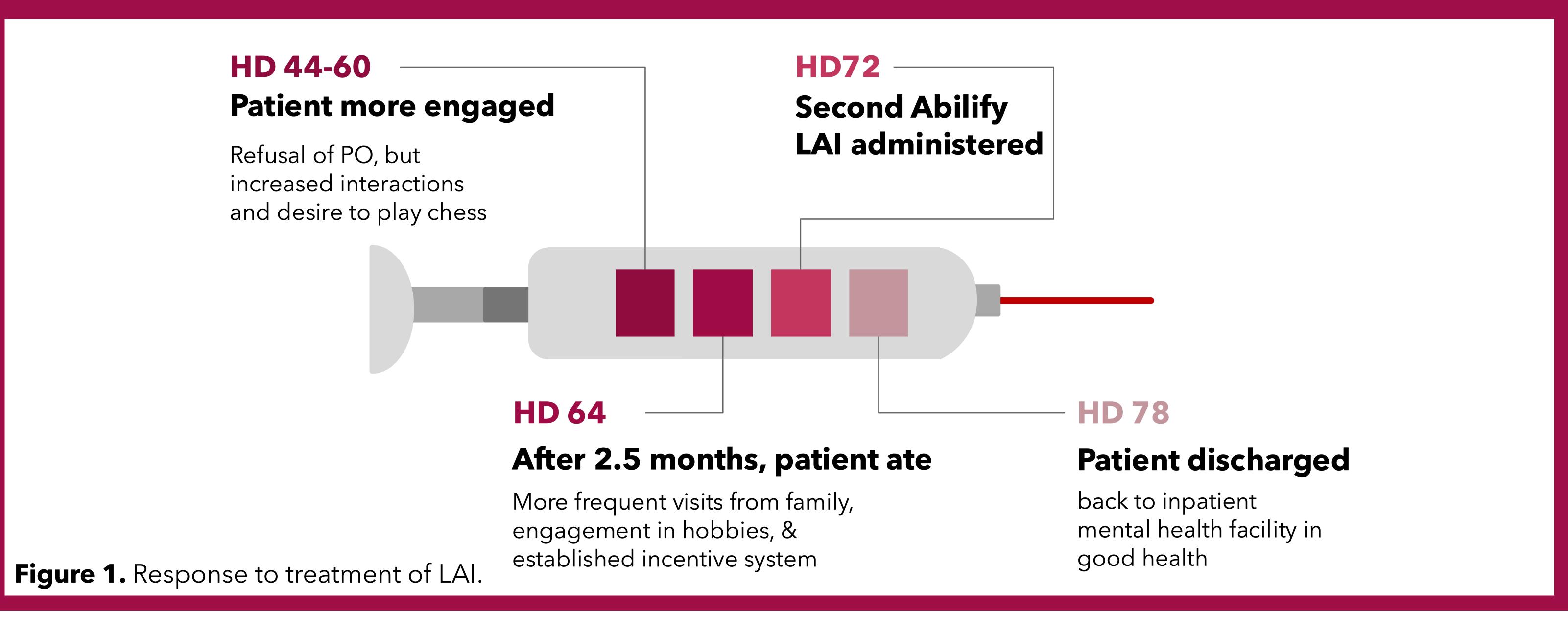
# Hospital Course and Response to Treatment

#### **Hospital Course:**

- He was admitted to the inpatient medicine service. CL psychiatry was consulted for medication recommendations. Patient refused PO Abilify. Alternate medications included: various combinations of IM antipsychotics (olanzapine, midazolam, haloperidol) with medical interventions of IV fluids and attempts at placing an NG tube, which the patient consistently pulled out.
- He was transferred to the MICU for close monitoring.
- A petition was filed for court-mandated treatment of an LAI antipsychotic. Aripiprazole (Abilify) LAI (400mg) was administered on hospital day (HD) 44, with expected peak on HD 54-60.1

## Significance:

- Recent literature suggests Abilify LAIs show improved outcomes in patients with autism and psychosis,<sup>2</sup> and are an underutilized treatment modality that can yield favorable patient outcomes.<sup>3</sup>
- This case shows that a combination of pharmacotherapy, behavioral interventions, family engagement, and interdisciplinary collaboration are critical aspects of CL psychiatric care.



## Conclusion

- LAIs, when supplemented by several non-pharmacologic modalities, are an important component in improving patient outcomes in patients who refuse PO intake
- This case addresses nuances of treating psychosis with court-ordered LAI treatment in a CL setting in a patient with autism and psychosis.

# References and Acknowledgements

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