

Treatment of choronic dystonia with electroconvulsive therapy (A case report)

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Abstract

Dystonia, a serious side effect of antipsychotic drugs, has two kinds of acute and chronic (tardive). The tardive kind has been the focus of attention recently, but a proved therapy has not been found. This kind is more serious and has poorer prognosis than the early onset type. The patient who is presented, is a man with 23 years of age who was hospitalized for the first time in 2002 while having paranoid schizophrenia symptoms. During the same period he has recieved antipsychotic drugs (Rispridon, perphenazin) and after being discharged, just a daily dose of 16 mg perphenazin was used. Since March of 2003 he has been afflicted with progressive neck tilting which was very disturbing and troublesome and was hospitalized with the diagnosis of tardive dystonia. The proposed drugs in psychiatric refrences were not effective finally he received ECT for 6 sessions which showed dramatic improvement. There was no relapse of symptoms after discharging the patient and restarting antipsychotic drug (Clozapin). There has not been any relapse in his dystonia afterward. The purpose of this article was to introduce an effective treatment for tardive dystonia.

Key Words: Dystonia- Electroconvulsive therapy