PARKINSONISM INDUCED BY TAKING TRAZODONE AS A HYPNOTIC: A CASE REPORT

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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Sleep disturbance is very prevalent in critically ill patients.

Trazodone is an atypical antidepressant used with highly frequency as hypnotic.

Main side effects → self-injurious thoughts, anaemia, seizures, paraesthesia, confusion or dyspnoea

Inhibition dopaminergic neurotransmission in the midbrain → cause extrapyramidal effects

AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To describe a case of parkinsonism induced by taking trazodone as hypnotic in a patient admitted in a Critical Care Unit (CCU)

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A 57-year old man with no relevant medical history was admitted to CCU in May 2021 with pneumonia caused by Covid-19 disease. The patient was agitated and suffered from insomnia. The physician prescribed trazodone starting with a dose of 50 mg and then 100 mg.

RESULTS

After taking trazodone → the nurse described slight tremor intensified with movement in upper extremities.

The physician on duty → notified but he did not find any explanation.

Next day, the official physician checked the medication with the critical care pharmacist.

The syndrome was not explained by analytics or other tests .The pharmacist checked all patient’s medications searching information in different databases: the official labels and the clinical trials, Pubmed® and UpToDate®.

In addition, she checked possible interactions in Lexicomp® database but she did not find nothing.

Trazodone was the unique drug associated with the syndrome

The physician and the pharmacist agreed to discontinue the medication to check if the syndrome disappeared.

The following days, the patient continued with tremble on movement. The pattern of the movement was similar each day. It started at afternoons and disappear during nights. The intensity of the movement was reduced each day.

The syndrome disappeared completely one week later

Causality assessment of adverse drug reactions by Naranjo et al. [1] → Event probable/likely

The pharmacist notified this adverse effect to pharmacovigilance

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

• Trazodone is considered safe and used frequently in our medical system, so the knowledge of effects like that is important.
• The parkinsonism induced was reverse and disappear one week later once the treatment was stopped.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


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