CLOZAPINE INDUCED THROMBOCYTOPENIA – CLINICAL CASE REPORT

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Clozapine belongs to the group of atypical antipsychotics with superior efficacy for the management of treatment resistant schizophrenia compared to the treatment with typical antipsychotic drugs. Commonly reported hematological side effect of clozapine include agranulocytosis, neutropenia, leucopenia and eosinophilia which can occur in 1% - 2% of treated patients. Thrombocytopenia is a reduction in blood platelet count below the lower limit of normal (<150) and represent a serious side effect which could lead to severe complications including dangerous cerebral hemorrhage. There is only few case reports on clozapine induced thrombocytopenia. According to some authors, clozapine induced thrombocytopenia could be immune mediated because of common side effect of eosinophilia.

Here we report a case of two patients (out of seven who were treated with clozapine) with clozapine induced thrombocytopenia. Patients were diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia upon first admission to the hospital, twenty years ago and were resistant to treatment with various typical antipsychotics. (promazine, haloperidol, levopromazine) during the course of long treatment. Since the symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia persisted and deteriorated, as well as, there was little improvement in their mental state, clozapine was introduced in therapy (initial dose of 25 mg then up to 200 mg – 300 mg daily). Their mental status improved in the course of treatment with clozapine, as well as, paranoid symptoms subsided. Two patients out of seven treated with clozapine in maximal daily dose of 200 mg - 300 mg developed thrombocytopenia as side effect and the drug was excluded from the therapy. The blood platelet count returned to normal after several weeks.

This case report shows rare, but serious side effect of clozapine induced thrombocytopenia which should be carefully followed and reported in future cases.

PHARMACOLOGIC SIDE EFFECT AND/OR NEUROLOGICAL DISORDER? - CASE REPORT


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The authors presented a patient with schizophrenia with early parallel development of neurological symptoms. It manifested, at first, thorough extrapyramidal syndrome on due appliance of typical neuroleptics. Therefore, therapeutic approach was diverted to implementation of atypical antipsychotics. Consequently patient developed at first orofacial dyskinesias which progrediated in unilateral choreo-atetoid movements. Two hospitalization followed for diagnostic workup and correction of therapy. Only repeated brain MR we came across moderate cortical atrophy. However, even with different therapeutic changes and approach we did not reach significant shift neither on psychical or neurological disturbances. The resistance on pharmacologic therapy leads to suspicion on parallel development of neurological disorder in form of Huntington chorea.

Still remains the question whether primary neurological disorder provoked psychotic process or we have two separate disorders where pharmacologic intervention accelerated expansion of neurological disorder.