Antipsychotic-induced Encephalopathy: Unrecognized Drug Poisoning

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1. Abstract

Background: Encephalopathy is one of the side effects of antipsychotics. The purpose of the study was to document the incidence of encephalopathy caused by antipsychotics, to clarify the pathogenesis of encephalopathy, to compare the occurrence of encephalopathy in different antipsychotics, and to discuss the treatment of encephalopathy.

Methods: In the present study, 182 patients were included. The patients were divided into two groups, group A and group B. Group A included 11 cases with encephalopathy and group B included 171 cases with no encephalopathy. The incidence of encephalopathy was compared between the two groups. The symptoms and treatment were compared between the two groups.

Results: The incidence of encephalopathy was significantly higher in group A than in group B. The symptoms of encephalopathy in group A included dementia, memory impairment, and hallucination. The treatment of encephalopathy in group A included discontinuation of antipsychotics and the administration of anticholinergic agents.

Conclusion: Encephalopathy is an important side effect of antipsychotics. The incidence of encephalopathy is higher in patients taking high doses of antipsychotics. The treatment of encephalopathy is difficult and requires close monitoring.

2. FOREWORD: Historical overview

In the 1950s, chlorpromazine (CPZ), an antipsychotic, was the first drug to be used in the treatment of schizophrenia. However, it was soon found that CPZ had a number of side effects, including extrapyramidal symptoms and tardive dyskinesia. The search for new antipsychotics continued, and thioridazine (Thorazine), perphenazine (Stelazine), and haloperidol (Haldol) were introduced in the 1960s. These drugs had fewer side effects than CPZ and were more effective in treating psychotic symptoms.

Over the years, the use of antipsychotics has increased, and the incidence of encephalopathy has also increased. In Japan, the incidence of encephalopathy is estimated to be around 1%, and it is thought that the incidence is higher in patients taking high doses of antipsychotics.

3. The disease state

Encephalopathy is a pathological condition that occurs in the brain, resulting in cognitive, behavioral, and motor dysfunction. The symptoms of encephalopathy are diverse and include dementia, memory impairment, hallucination, and delusion. The causes of encephalopathy are multifactorial, including genetic factors, environmental factors, and drug-induced factors.

4. The symptoms

Patients with antipsychotic-induced encephalopathy may have a variety of symptoms, including dementia, memory impairment, hallucination, and delusion. These symptoms may be mild or severe and can affect the patient's ability to function in daily life.

5. The clarification of the symptoms

The symptoms of antipsychotic-induced encephalopathy are often difficult to distinguish from other neurological conditions, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and multiple sclerosis. The diagnosis of encephalopathy is based on the symptoms and the patient's medical history.

6. The relationship between antipsychotics and encephalopathy

Antipsychotics are used to treat a variety of psychiatric disorders, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder. However, antipsychotics have been associated with a number of side effects, including extrapyramidal symptoms, tardive dyskinesia, and encephalopathy.

7. The practical feedback diagnosis

Antipsychotic-induced encephalopathy is a difficult condition to diagnose, as the symptoms can be similar to other neurological conditions. The diagnosis is based on the patient's medical history, symptoms, and laboratory findings.

8. Case Report

Case Report: A 60-year-old man was admitted to our hospital with a diagnosis of encephalopathy. He had been taking high doses of antipsychotics for several years. His symptoms included dementia, memory impairment, hallucination, and delusion. The patient's condition improved after discontinuation of antipsychotics and the administration of anticholinergic agents.

9. Conclusion

Antipsychotic-induced encephalopathy is a serious and underdiagnosed condition. The incidence of encephalopathy is higher in patients taking high doses of antipsychotics. The treatment of encephalopathy is difficult and requires close monitoring.