Cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome, a treatment discussion

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Cannabinoid hyperemesis syndrome (CHS), is characterized by recurrent episodes of severe nausea and intractable vomiting, preceded by chronic use of cannabis. A pathognomonic characteristic is compulsive bathing in hot water. The resolution of the problem occurs when cannabis use is stopped. However, patients are often reluctant to discontinue cannabis.

Treatment with anti-emetic medication is ineffective. Case series suggested haloperidol as a potential treatment. Other antipsychotics as olanzapine has been used as anti-emetic treatment in chemotherapy.

Objectives To describe three cases of patients with CHS whom showed a successful response to olanzapine, even when, haloperidol had failed.

Aims To present an alternative treatment for CHS which can offer benefits over haloperidol.

Methods We present three cases of patients who suffered from CHS and were admitted to emergency department. All patients were treated with olanzapine after conventional anti-hemetic treatment failure. One patient was also unsuccessfully treated with haloperidol.

Results All three patients showed a good response to olanzapine treatment. Different presentations were effective: velotab and intramuscular. Their nausea, vomits and agitation were ameliorated. They could be discharge after maintained remission of symptoms.

Conclusions Olanzapine should be considered as an adequate treatment for CHS. Its suitable receptorial profile, its availability in different routes of administration and its side effects profile could offer some benefits over haloperidol.

Disclosure of interest The authors have not supplied their declaration of competing interest.

Prevalence of metabolic syndrome and of symptoms of anxiety and depression in patients undergoing colonoscopy

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Introduction Growing evidence has been collected over the complex, intertwined pathophysiological connection among subclinical cardiovascular (CV) disease, i.e. atherosclerosis, systemic low pro-inflammatory states and psychiatric disorders/symptomatology (anxiety, depression), with controversial results.

Aim Aim of this study was to investigate the possible link between subclinical CV risk factors (atherosclerosis), depressive symptoms, and inflammation.

Methods Cross-sectional study. Inclusion criteria: outpatients aged ≥40 years, attending colonoscopy after positive faecal occult blood test, negative medical history for cancer. Collected data: blood pressure, glycaemia, lipid profile, waist circumference, BMI, PCR (C reactive protein), LPS (bacterial lipopolysaccharide), ultrasound carotid intima-media thickness (c-IMT), Psychometric tests: HADS, TCI, IMSA, SF36. Statistical analysis performed with STATA13.

Results The 54 patients enrolled were equally distributed by gender. CV risk factors were common in the study population, with 33 patients (61.11%) with hypertension, 14 (25.93%) with hyperglycaemia, 20 (37.4%) with hypertriglyceridermia, 19 (35.19%) with low HDL and 64.81% with overweight. High levels of PCR were found in 24 subjects (44.44%). Right c-IMT was increased in 26.41% of the sample, and 11.32% had an atheromatous plaque. Left c-IMT was increased in 24.53% of patients, with a plaque in 7.55% of them. Clinically relevant depressive symptoms were found in the 18.87% of the sample and were statistically significantly associated with PCR (OR = 28.63; P = 0.01).

Conclusions Evidence contributing to the so-called “inflammation theory” of depression and supporting the association between mood and CV disorders was here collected, supporting the need for a multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis and treatment of such conditions, assuming a clinically-translated PNEI (psychoneuro-endocrino-immunological) perspective.

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Impact of anxiety-depressive symptoms on outpatients' quality of life: Preliminary results from an Italian observational study

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Introduction Several studies have shown an association between the Short-Form 36 (SF36) scores and anxiety-depressive symptoms, suggesting that depression in particular could reduce Quality of Life (QoL) to the same, and even greater, extent than chronic non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes and hypertension. Aims To explore the relationship among QoL and anxiety, depressive and anxiety-depressive symptoms in an outpatient sample. Methods Cross-sectional study. Inclusion criteria: outpatients aged >40 years, without history for cancer, attending colonoscopy after positive faecal occult blood test. Collected data: blood pressure, blood glucose, lipid profile, psychometric test: Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale (HADS). QoL was assessed with SF36. Statistics performed with STATA13.

Results 54 patients enrolled (27 females). Sixteen patients (30.2%) were positive for anxiety symptoms, ten (18.9%) for depressive symptoms and five (9.4%) for anxiety-depressive symptoms. The perceived QoL was precarious in twelve subjects (22.2%); e.g., for a patient (15.8%) had low score (≤42) at “Mental Component Summary” (MCS) subscale, three (5.7%) at the “Mental Health” item and one patient (1.9%) at the “Vitality” one. At the multiple regression analysis, depressive (OR = 28.63; P = 0.01) and anxiety-depressive symptoms (OR = 11.16; P = 0.02) were associated with MCS.

Conclusions The association emerging from the present study between depressive/anxiety symptoms and the MCS component of SF36 is consistent with available literature. Study design and small sample size do not allow to generalize results, that need further studies to be confirmed.