Use of Pseudoephedrine in the Management of Severe Clozapine Induced Urinary Urgency and Frequency

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Aims. Clozapine has several effects on the genitourinary system including enuresis and an overactive bladder (OAB). However, little if any has been written about its effect in causing OAB and its prevalence. Typical feature of OAB is urinary urgency associated with urinary frequency in the absence of urinary tract infection or other obvious pathology. Having 8 voids or more in 24 hours in addition to urinary urgency is strongly suggestive of OAB. AB developed AOB while being treated with clozapine.

Methods. AB is 33 years old white lady with a well-established diagnosis of emotionally unstable personality disorder. She has been in mental health services from her late teens. She has had a trial of several antipsychotics, both oral and depot and has had a number of DBT sessions and one EMDR with limited effect. Prior to this episode, AB has had two successful trials of clozapine, one resulting in her longest period (9 months) of living in the community in 1998.

AB was started on clozapine again in 2021, she developed urinary frequency. She requested it to be stopped. Her condition deteriorated such that she needed intensive care unit. AB was again started on clozapine. She developed urinary frequency once more when the dose reached 250 mg. She did not have infection. For one week, her urinary frequency ranged from 36–66 in 24 hours. It was more evident in the day time. There was no incontinence. AB remained in her room close to her toilet. She stopped engaging in her therapy, she did not mix with others and did go out. She tried a number of medications- aripiprazole, oxybutynin and desmopressin with no benefit. Pseudoephedrine was started at 15 mg twice a day, eventually reaching 30 mg three times a day. Within two weeks, the urge disappeared and the frequency normalised. Six months on, AB remains well and has not reported any side effects.

Results. Pseudoephedrine, an indirect alpha-adrenergic agonist successfully normalised AB’s urinary frequency. It was evident so within few days though the maximum benefit was noted within two weeks. This is in agreement with what is reported in cases with enuresis.

Conclusion. Very little is known about clozapine induced OAB. It had a severe negative impact on AB, who failed to engage in her therapy and her social life. Pseudoephedrine brought relief within a short period of time. In case of OAB and when stopping clozapine is not an option because of underlying severe mental disorder; think of pseudoephedrine.

The Impact of Stigma on Forensic Psychiatric Patients - a Case Report

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Aims. The Royal College of Psychiatrists’ Fair Deal (RCPsych 2008) highlighted the far-reaching impact of stigma and discrimination on the lives of people with mental illness. The pervading nature of stigma has been acknowledged in recent national and international mental health policies (WHO). The World Health Organisation reiterates people affected by mental illness should not suffer social exclusion and marginalisation due to stigma.

Methods. A sixty-year-old gentleman presented to the Emergency Department following self-inflicted stabbing to the neck resulting in pharyngeal tear and surgical repair. Previous psychiatric history included inpatient admission on Section 2 following a major depressive episode. On this admission, inpatient psychiatric review elicited three months of psychotropic medication non-adherence due to difficulties the patient had encountered in acquiring repeat medications from his GP. He had relapsed into alcohol misuse as a coping mechanism culminating in a suicide attempt at home with a knife. Upon recommencing of sertraline and risperidone during admission, he was assessed as euthymic with low risk to self. The patient had been previously abstinent from alcohol and described religion as a protective factor. Prior to discharge, the patient’s GP stated he must present to the surgery in person with a form of identification. This is despite CQC guidance stipulating practices should not refuse patients registration if proof of identity cannot be produced.

Results. This case illustrates the socioeconomic factors increasing likelihood of suicide including forensic history, low financial status, unstable housing and lack of social support. Substance dependence is a risk factor that can be reduced by supporting patients in accessing specialist misuse input from inpatient and community teams. The patient reported fear of stigmatisation and criminalisation which led to the avoidance of seeking treatment, deterioration in mental health and severe clinical consequences. It is imperative marginalised patients with mental illness can access quality health care and this starts with GP registration.

Conclusion. Forensic mental health patients experience multiple stigmas impacting on well-being including social, institutional and media stigmatisation and high levels of internalised stigma. The Time to Change campaign focused on changing attitudes and behaviour however evaluation illustrated difficulties in tackling this issue. Healthcare professionals should be mindful to avoid stigmatising language and actions to ensure fairness in care. There is a
need for the medical profession to continue striving for a tangible shift in attitudes. Advocating for those with mental illness can enhance quality of life for vulnerable patient groups.

Ataque De Nervios: A Case Report

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Aims. Ataque de nervios is a culture-bound syndrome among individuals of Latin descent. The case study presents an ataque de nervios case triggered by unique stressors in a transgender female of Mexican origin. This case also highlights the critical features of ataque de nervios, and discusses the challenges in diagnosis, classification and management.

Methods. 47-year-old transgender (male to female) woman was admitted to an acute female inpatient unit following a presentation of erratic behaviour and a collapse episode under mental health act. During her observation and assessment period, multiple ataque episodes were observed with characteristic features triggered by gender phobic comments. After ruling out the organic causes and ruling out other differentials, she was diagnosed with ataque de nervios. She completed her treatment and continues to remain on remission.

Results. The case presents a rather recognized presentation of ataque de nervios, however, the unique triggers rooted from her gender identity are more relevant to the current 21st century social context which is also an important ongoing discussion topic in psychiatry. The themes are also good presentation of the evolving psychosocial context of the specialty.

Conclusion. Further study is needed to examine the relationship between ataque de nervios and gender identity, as well as the relationship to cultural, demographic, environmental, and personality factors.

Behavioural Changes in a Patient With Schizoaffective Disorder

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Background. A 46-year-old man has a diagnosis of schizoaffective disorder complained of intermittent abdominal pain for many years. Due to this, he had been reviewed by the GP and he was prescribed medication to help with his intermittent abdominal pain.

Case Report. Over the years the abdominal pain gradually worsened. He also has communication issues due to language barriers and was unsettled for most of his assessment.

His past medical history includes a duodenal ulcer, infected swollen legs and recurrent urinary tract infections.

He continued to have pyrexia despite being on regular paracetamol. Following his second episode of pyrexia, he was referred to the hospital for further investigation.

This was found to be acute acalculus cholecystitis, with possible cholecystocolic fistula and pneumonia. He was managed conservatively with intravenous antibiotics and is awaiting cholecystectomy.

Discussion. Behavioural change in people with mental illness need not necessarily be linked to their mental state as it can very well be the atypical manifestation of physical illnesses—some of which could be fatal. Prompt recognition and referral to acute medical or surgical services is essential. Staff need training in bias, diagnostic overshadowing and atypical presentations in those with mental illness which will help reduce rates of avoidable morbidity and premature mortality.

In any case physical illnesses may not present typically. Acalculous cholecystitis is a rare type of gall bladder inflammation and the cause in Mr X’s case is not clear. At times of COVID-19, with the anxieties around exposure to hospitals and infections, it is important to be aware of this and ensure that people with worrying physical symptoms are promptly referred whether or not it is considered to be related to COVID-19.

Conclusion. Due to the pandemic, we were cautious on the ward and community about COVID-19 and preventing catching and spreading the infection. During all this, patients change of behaviour shouldn’t be alluded to deterioration of mental health and mental health professionals should also consider ruling out physical causes for the change of presentation.

“Life, Interrupted”: A Patient Experience Encompassing the Journey From Hospital to the Community, With Support From the Mental Health Intensive Support Team (MhIST)

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Aims. We present outcomes of a newly developed Community Rehabilitation team (MhIST) using the context of Jen’s personal story. Jen is a 31-year-old student and freelance journalist. This story encompasses her journey from inpatient rehabilitation services to the community, completed with support from MhIST.

Methods. "For nearly four years, I was sectioned under the Mental Health Act as an inpatient in hospital. As I had been denied my fundamental liberties for so long, the prospect of leaving hospital for good and enjoying total freedom was both exhilarating and terrifying. How would I fare in the community, living on my own? Would I be lonely? Would I relapse? Would I survive?"

Upon leaving hospital, I immediately received intensive support from MhIST. They were the bridge between the gulf that was hospital and the community. Since leaving hospital, I have been relishing my freedom. I enjoy meeting up with my friends after so long apart. I have volunteered at The Storyhouse, a local arts venue. The Spider Project – a non-clinical community mental health service in Chester - has also provided me with fulfilling activities from yoga to creative writing. The MhIST team have not only kept me well but, most importantly, helped me thrive. Leaving hospital has been an adventure. It has been a joy to regain my independence and freedom. To live rather than to exist. Life is amazing. Long may it continue.”

Results. MhIST provides an intensive rehabilitation and recovery service, delivering bespoke packages of care to individuals. This is achieved using key working and a shared team approach, outcome