

Medicines Management & Pharmacy Services (MMPS)

Extrapyramidal side-effects of antipsychotic drug treatment

Drug induced movement disorders (extrapyramidal side effects) are commonly associated with antipsychotics.

Dystonia

Muscle spasm can occur in any part of the body

Occurs in approximately 10% of patients, but more common in young males

Treated with anticholinergic drugs given orally, IV, or IM depending on the severity of symptoms

Pseudo-parkinsonism (tremor and/or rigidity)

Occurs in approximately 20% of patients, but more common in elderly females

Treatment options are: anticholinergic drugs

change to a second generation antipsychotic

reduce the dose of the antipsychotic

Akathisia (restlessness)

Occurs in approximately 25% of patients; lower incidence with second generation antipsychotics

Treatment options are: reduce the dose of the antipsychotic

change to a second generation antipsychotic

propranolol 30 – 80mg daily may help

Tardive dyskinesia (abnormal movements)

Approximately 50% of cases are reversible

Stop anticholinergic if prescribed

Reduce dose of antipsychotic and change to a second generation drug – clozapine is the antipsychotic most likely to cause a resolution of the symptoms

Tetrabenazine (initial dose 12.5mg daily) may be effective in relieving symptoms

References

- (1) Maudsley Prescribing Guidelines; 11th edition; 2012
- (2) Bazire; Psychotropic Drug Directory 2010

For further information: www.choiceandmedication.org/leedsandyorkpft

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Provenance

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