Dopa-Responsive Dystonia subsequent to Lamotrigine Administration: Case Reports

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ABSTRACT

Epilepsy is a common neurologic disorder affecting approximately 1% of the population. The prevalence of active epilepsy in Kerman, Iran is 7.87/1000 individuals. The past decade has brought many advances to the treatment of epilepsy, including many new pharmacological agents. Lamotrigine is one of the new antiepileptic drugs. Lamotrigine has many side effects; the most important of which are allergic reactions. In this article, the author reports two cases of dopa-responsive dystonia (DRD) after few months administration of lamotrigine for epilepsy. The cases are two girls (4 and 5 years old) who had seizures and received lamotrigine 50 mg/day. They have been free of seizure after treatment but after some time the dystonic attacks developed. Lamotrigine administration discontinued, but dystonic attacks didn’t disappear. Levodopa/carbidopa was started. After a few days, the dystonic pastures disappeared. In conclusion, lamotrigine may introduce dystonia in susceptible patients. These dystonic attacks might beresponsive to levodopa.

Keywords: ????

Epilepsy is a common neurologic disorder affecting 42 other medications such as valproic acid. It’s about 1% of the population [1]. The prevalence of 43 predominantly metabolized in the liver by active epilepsy in Kerman, Iran is 7.87/1000 individuals 44glucuronidation [9]. Lamotrigine has many side effects, 45 most importantly allergic reactions. Gradual introducing the major treatment modality for epilepsy. This could 46lamotrigine is one of the keys to reduce the frequency occur as a result of decreased excitation concurrent with and severity of allergic reactions [5]. Although the increased inhibition [3]. Management of epilepsy differs 48overall incidence of cutaneous reactions to lamotrigine from the treatment of other chronic diseases in that a 49is high, the incidence of serious eruptions such as single breakthrough event has a major negative effect 50erythema multiform, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, and on quality of life. Complete control of seizures is 51toxic epidermal necrolysis is low [10,11]. The revision necessary as a single seizure impacts negatively on 52of La Roche and Helmers demonstrated that side-effects patient quality of life and independence [4]. 53led to drug withdrawal in 10.2% of all patients under The past decade has brought many advances to the 54lamotrigine therapy. Rash was the main reason for treatment of epilepsy, including many new antiepileptic drugs; it’s been used more than two 55treatment discontinuation. It has been postulated that pharmacological agents. Lamotrigine is one of the new side-effects may be lessened by slow introduction and antiepileptic drugs; it’s been used more than two 57titration [12,13].

Lamotrigine is a broad-spectrum 58 The present study reports two cases of dopa- antiepileptic drug of the phenyltriazine class chemically 59responsive dystonia (DRD) after lamotrigine unrelated to other anticonvulsants [8]. Lamotrigine has 60administration for a few months due to epilepsy. DRD an average elimination half-life of 33 hours, although 61is a broad term used to described forms of dystonia this can be influenced by concomitant therapy with 62characterized by the onset dystonia in early childhood...
Case Reports

Case 1

A 5 years old girl who used lamotrigine 50 mg per day due to tonic-clonic seizure and had her first attack of seizure two months before her first visit. After starting lamotrigine, the patient was free from seizure for one year. Dystonic attacks were developed in lower limb and after a time spread to lumbar spine, and then to the cervical area. Dystonic attacks worsened later in the day. Results of physical examinations, brain’s MRI scans and hematologic and serologic laboratory tests were normal. Dystonic pasture did not disappear after lamotrigine was discontinued. The dystonic attacks disappeared after two days, when 50 mg per day levodopa/carbidopa was started.

Case 2

A 4 years old girl used lamotrigine 50 mg per day due to complex partial seizure. She had had her first attack of seizure a few months before her first visit.

After receiving lamotrigine for two months, dystonic posture developed in lower limb and then spread to lumbar spine. Dystonic posture worsened later in the day. Physical examinations, brain’s MRI scans, hematologic and serologic laboratory tests were normal. Dystonic pasture did not disappear after lamotrigine was discontinued. The dystonic attacks disappeared after three days, when 50 mg per day levodopa/carbidopa was started.

Discussion

DRDs are a group of disorders that show a good response to levodopa. The causes of these disorders are unknown, but the mutation of a gene is recognized in some studies. Onset of this disease usually happens in the first decade of life starting with foot dystonia, which progress to involve other body parts, but typically remains more severe in the lower extremities. The severity increases progressively over the first two decades of life, but plateaus with relatively few side effects and no long-term complication [16]. Untreated individuals developed diurnal fluctuations with marked improvement in the morning and worsening in the evening. DRDs are more frequent in female than in males, with a ratio varying from 1 to 4.3:1. Diagnosis of 111 DRD can often be made on clinical grounds [17].

There are reports about DRD induction by diazepam [18], bupropion [19], cetirizine [20], riluzole [21], and tetrabenazine [22]. The authors, however, didn’t find any reports about post-lamotrigine conditions.

Lamotrigine is a new antiepileptic agent that is frequently used in epileptic patients with a good tolerability and efficacy. Lamotrigine has side effects, the most common form of DRD is an autosomal-dominant condition (DYST1) caused by mutation of the gene for guanosine triphosphate cyclohydrolase [15].

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