

Olanzapine

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Pulmonary thromboembolism: case report

A 55-year-old woman developed pulmonary thromboembolism during treatment with olanzapine.

The woman who had a history of depression mood disorder and improper sleep at night, was treated with olanzapine tablets 10 mg/day [route not stated], sertraline hydrochloride and oxazepam for 28 days. She was admitted due to dyspnea occurring the day before presentation [duration of treatment to reaction onset not stated]. On admission her blood pressure was 100/70 mmHg, heart rate was 100 beats/minute, RR was 18 breaths/minute, body temperature was 36.5°C and her body mass index was 23 kg/m². Her arterial blood gas analysis revealed hypoxemia and hypocapnia. Her plasma D-dimer was 11.79 mg/L. Her cardiac enzyme showed a slightly high level of troponin 1 (cTnI). Her ECG revealed an T-wave inversion. A computed tomographic pulmonary angiography (CTPA) showed multiple pulmonary emboli on both lobes accompanied by a relatively small amount of fluid on the right interlobar fissure. A bilateral Doppler ultrasound of the lower limbs revealed venous thrombosis between her right calf muscle. She was diagnosed with pulmonary embolism. She was readmitted to the respiratory department.

Olanzapine was withdrawn along with the other antipsychotics. She was treated with heparin. Six days later, her condition improved. After rechecking her blood analysis revealed decreased concentrations of D-dimer and cTnI, and a normal arterial blood gases. She recovered completely and she was discharged on day 12 of hospitalisation. Treatment with warfarin was continued. Her CTPA after 4 months' follow up was normal.

Author comment: "While, the absence of major congenital or acquired risk factors for PE in this case points to drug therapy on the most probable factor underlying the thromboembolic event in our patient." "This evidence is not in support of a major contribution of other two kinds of drugs than olanzapine to PE episode in our case."

Wang Q, et al. Pulmonary thromboembolism associated with olanzapine treatment. Chinese Medical Journal 128: 419-420, No. 3, Jan 2015. Available from: URL: <http://doi.org/10.4103/0366-6999.150124> - China

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