

## Sertraline

S

**Severe sleep-related movement disorder: case report**

A 47-year-old man developed a severe sleep-related movement disorder, including restless legs syndrome (RLS), periodic limb movements during sleep (PLMS) and complex motor activity, during treatment with sertraline.

The man, who had a history of mild depression, had been taking sertraline 50mg daily [*route not stated*] for 5 years. He presented to an outpatient clinic due to restless sleep. He reported occasional daytime somnolence and non-restorative sleep. He also reported an unpleasant sensation of itching and the urge to move his legs in the evening. He was diagnosed with RLS. Of note, his symptoms of RLS started several days after starting sertraline. He had a score of 28 on the International Restless Legs Scale. Typical PLMS was seen with 159 periodic limb movements per hour, upon video-polysomnography. He also exhibited movements ranging from flexion of his fingers to jerks of his entire upper limbs. Complex motor activity characterised by repetitive and rhythmic "body rolling movements", which met the criteria for rhythmic movement disorder, was seen as well. Successive movements caused repeated awakenings. The verbal expression "It kills me!" accompanied the highest intensity of itching and movements.

Sertraline was withdrawn. Subsequently, the patient had complete symptomatic resolution. At last follow-up, he had no sleepiness complaints and no RLS symptoms.

**Author comment:** "We report a case of polysomnographically documented severe sleep-related movement disorder, including RLS, PLMS, and complex motor activity, induced by sertraline therapy. . . The administration of sertraline induced the RLS symptoms and its discontinuation led to their disappearance. This implies that these severe and atypical RLS/PLMS features were associated with sertraline as a side effect of therapy."

Buskova J, et al. Severe sleep-related movement disorder induced by sertraline. *Sleep Medicine* 13: 769-770, No. 6, Jun 2012. Available from: URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.sleep.2012.01.006> - Czech Republic

803075489