

P03-73 - MYOCARDITIS AND CARDIOMYOPATHY: SEVERE COMPLICATIONS OF CLOZAPINE TREATMENT

H. Kamphuis, J. Arends, L. Timmerman, J. Kappert, J. Van Marle

GGZ Drenthe, Assen, The Netherlands

Introduction: Clozapine has several major side-effects for example agranulocytosis. There are however several severe cardiac side-effects associated with the use of clozapine.

We present two psychotic patients, who were treated with clozapine. One patient developed myocarditis and the other patient developed cardiomyopathy. These findings raised questions about the frequency of cardiac side-effects due to clozapine treatment.

Objectives: Awareness of cardiotoxic side-effects of clozapine; Creation of a clinical guideline for myocarditis and cardiomyopathy in clozapine treatment

Methods: Two case reports, one male 57 years, suffering from paranoid schizophrenia developing myocarditis, the other a female of 62 years also suffering from paranoid schizophrenia, developing cardiomyopathy during clozapine treatment are presented.

Secondly, an extensive literature search with keywords: Myocarditis; cardiomyopathy, heartfailure and clozapine has been performed.

Results: The incidence of myocarditis and cardiomyopathy associated with clozapine use are possibly around 1 percent, 10-100 times higher than previously assumed.

Conclusion: Myocarditis and cardiomyopathy are cardiac side-effects of clozapine use which are severe and have a possible fatal outcome. Diagnosis of namely myocarditis can be difficult.

Research suggests that these side-effects might be less rare as thought of until recently. A clinical guideline for monitoring of these side-effects didn't really exist to this moment. A proposition for a clinical guideline has been made in this presentation consisting of namely: anamnestic findings laboratory tests and ECG controls. Awareness for myocarditis is especially necessary during the first 4 weeks of clozapine treatment.