

Immune-globulin/quetiapine/risperidone

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Lack of efficacy: case report

A 31-year-old woman exhibited lack of efficacy during treatment with immune-globulin, quetiapine and risperidone for anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis or psychotic symptoms.

The woman was admitted in November 2019 because she was hearing voices and having delusions of being murdered. Seven days prior to admission, she suddenly opened the doors in the middle of the night and cried, "Get out, you two, get out." She reported that she was nervous and frightened that someone was in the room and that person was harming her and her family. On admission, her words and actions were disorderly, and she became withdrawn, hostile and irritable. She had auditory hallucinations of being murdered, illusions and delusions (psychotic symptoms). After a lumbar puncture, an autoimmune encephalitis antibody test revealed positive anti-NMDA receptor antibody 1:32. After consultation with a neurologist, she was suspected to have anti-NMDA receptor encephalitis. Subsequently, she started receiving quetiapine titrated to 0.3g twice daily and risperidone titrated to 1mg twice daily, and immune-globulin [human immunoglobulin] 20g for 5 consecutive days [*routes not stated*]. Despite the immuno-globulin, quetiapine and risperidone therapy, she continued to have delusions of victimization and display disordered speech and behaviour (lack of efficacy).

Thereafter, the woman was treated with modified electroconvulsive therapy (MECT) along with penyekine hydrochloride [*sic*], propofol and suxamethonium chloride [succinylcholine chloride]. After 3 sessions of MECT, her mood stabilised, and she displayed no strange behaviour, hallucinations or delusions. Five sessions later, she felt completely conscious. After 20 days of hospitalisation, she was stable. After discharge, she returned to her normal life and her job as a salesperson. She continued quetiapine and risperidone even 1 year after discharge. Later, due to COVID-19 outbreak, she did not receive any medication for nearly 1 year due to difficulty in seeing doctors.

Yuan L, et al. Electroconvulsive therapy in a patient with positive anti-NMDA receptor antibodies presenting with isolated psychiatric symptoms: A case report. *Schizophrenia Research* 239: 44-46, Jan 2022. Available from: URL: <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.schres.2021.11.022> 803637875