

Gilles de la Tourette syndrome treated effectively with Clozapine

To the Editor

This interesting report of the effective treatment of Tourette syndrome (TS) with clozapine which appeared in a previous issue of the *Neurosciences Journal* is praiseworthy.¹ Allow me to make the following comments.

The author's Medline search for cases of TS reported from the Middle East is not quite up to scratch. It missed our case of the disease encountered in a Kuwaiti woman, which was published in 1991 in the *Journal of the National Medical Association of United States of America*.² Our case manifested definite features of TS at the age of 11 years, the same age when the disease was diagnosed in Patient One of Dr. Alhamad's study. Our patient suffered a head injury at the age of 5 years, an event, which we attempted to link etiologically with her TS. I do not know how much we succeeded in that discussion. Nevertheless, the alleged claim of improvement in cerebral circulation after head injury by the drug piracetam (nootropil) led us to exhibit this drug in our Kuwaiti patient who had used other drugs, including haloperidol and visited many clinics outside Kuwait, including that of Shapiro, all without success. So this claim by Alhamad of the benefit of clozapine in the management of TS raises a glimmer of hope for the forlorn patient and the groping physician.

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Reply from the Author

I would like to thank Prof. Adelola Adeloye for his interesting and positive remarks and I found his article focusing on the neuropsychiatric etiology of TS rather than its treatment. Over the years clinicians have tried many medicines to help Tourette patients especially in their tic disorder ranging from conventional antipsychotics, antidepressants to Clonidine, Baclofen/Botulinum toxin type A and Cannabinoids.^{3,4} As Clozapine possesses its peculiar properties and the suggestive evidence of its effect in movement disorders such as tardive dyskinesia, I see that it has the neuropsychopharmacological basis to help such patients at this stage, but still there is room for any suggested treatment.

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References

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