

Acute Glaucoma with Citalopram

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Abstract

Although there is no mention of acute glaucoma on the list of side effects of citalopram in some patient information leaflets, here have been previous published case reports on association of citalopram and other ssri (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors) with acute glaucoma. It is the most severe ssri related ocular complication.

Risk factor: race-asianorigin, hyper metropia, family history, female gender, age and shallow anterior chamber. Mechanism of ssri induced acute glaucoma is not clear. An elderly lady with no previous history of glaucoma presented with acute headaches, bilateral ocular pain, photophobia, worsening vision and fixed dilated pupils. With bilateral raised intra ocular pressures she was initially treated with systemic acetazolamide, ocular hypotensives then bilateral yag iridotomy. Subsequently stopped acetazolamide and pilocarpine. She returned with worsening vision and significantly raised iops this time. Her ultrasound b-scans remained unremarkable (though sometimes they can show typical findings). She was discussed with glaucoma specialist (rs) who asked for a full drug history and who stopped the oral citalopram subsequently. Her IPOS normalized improving her symptoms and vision markedly. This patient had been seen a few times earlier, however, a comprehensive drug history was not obtained earlier. A low threshold for drug induced causes of bilateral acute glaucoma, including this as side effect in pills (patient information leaflet) and detailed ophthalmic examination including gonioscopy should be carried out even in the presence of patent iridotomies in high risk patients. Warning advice and counselling to the patients should be given.

Biography:

Rohit Sharma is a renowned Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon University Hospitals Derby and Burton, UK gaining his MBBS MS MRCSEd Edinburgh FRC Ophth London. Rohit Sharma is working in Department of Ophthalmology, University Hospitals Derby and Burton, UK. He publishes many articles in reputed journals.

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