

tient was treated with citalopram with some behavioral improvement, and the family was informed of specialized genetic testing and genetic counseling.

Comment

Frontotemporal dementia (FTD) is a neuropsychiatric syndrome with progressive degeneration of the frontal lobes, anterior temporal lobes, or both.^{3,4} The core clinical criteria for diagnosing FTD include progressive declines in social conduct, personal regulation, insight, and emotional reactivity.³ This patient met criteria for FTD, and her family history suggested a familial form of the FTD-ALS spectrum.

Frontal temporal dementia is a variable and often asymmetric disorder with a range of neuropsychiatric symptoms.⁴ Previously described from vascular lesions and tumors involving the orbitofrontal region and from neurosyphilis, moria and Witzelsücht can also be the most prominent symptoms of FTD. Moria includes childish euphoria and cheerful excitement,¹ and Witzelsücht includes excessive and inappropriate facetiousness, jokes, and pranks.² These behaviors may be specifically related to disturbances in the right anterior temporal orbitofrontal region,⁵ as evidenced in this patient. Furthermore, moria and Witzelsücht may respond to serotonin selective reuptake inhibitor and other psychoactive medications.

MARIO F. MENDEZ, M.D., PH.D.

Departments of Neurology and Psychiatry, University of California at Los Angeles, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, Los Angeles, CA

References

1. Jastrowitz M: Beiträge zur Localisation im Grosshirn and über deren praktische Verwerthung. *Dtsch Med Wochenschr* 1888;14:81
2. Oppenheim H: Zur pathologie der grosshirngeschwülste. *Arch Psychiat* 1889; 21:560–578
3. Neary D, Snowden JS, Gustafson L, et al: Frontotemporal lobar degeneration: a consensus on clinical diagnostic criteria. *Neurol* 1998; 51:1546–1554
4. Mendez MF, Perryman KM: Neuropsychiatric features of frontotemporal dementia. evaluation of consensus criteria and review. *J Neuropsychiatry Clin Neurosci* 2002; 14:424–429
5. Vardi J, Finkelstein Y, Zlotogorski Z, Hod I: L'homme qui rit: inappropriate laughter and release phenomena of the frontal subdominant lobe. *Behav Med* 1994; 20:44–46

Frovatriptan-Induced Hypomania

SIR There has been an ongoing debate in the literature about whether antidepressants can induce hypomania in patients with underlying bipolar disorder.¹ There is, however, less knowledge about other medications inducing such changes. The following case is about how a medication belonging to the class of drugs, called the triptans, induced a hypomanic episode in a bipolar patient.

Case Report

Mr. A is a 51-year-old single, white male who was seen at an outpatient private psychiatry clinic. He was diagnosed with bipolar II disorder and maintained on lamotrigine 150 mg/day. The patient was last seen 3 weeks previously with a Young Mania Rating Scale (YMRS)² of 7, with no hypomanic or mixed episodes in the previous 3 months. In that interim the patient was only taking lamotrigine and sumatriptan 50 mg as needed for migraine headaches as prescribed by his neurologist. Mr. A had few mood switches under the current medication regimen. Various prophylactic treatments for these migraine headaches had been tried in the past with ei-

ther poor results or intolerable side effects.

Mr. A was then started on frovatriptan 2.5 mg per day for migraine headache prophylaxis. Two days later the patient was seen in the psychiatry clinic. At that time Mr. A was very irritable, anxious, sleeping poorly, rapid speech, and frequently tangential with intermittent looseness of associations: with an YMRS score of 29. Mr. A denied any increase in stress in home, work, or social environments. With the patient's permission, Mr. A's radical change was discussed with his neurologist and it was agreed to try the following: immediately discontinue the frovatriptan and take olanzapine 2.5 mg as needed for sleep.

The patient was seen 6 days later in the outpatient clinic. At this time he was less anxious, calmer, exhibited regular speech with goal direction, and was less agitated: his YMRS score was now 9. The patient reported not having taken any olanzapine. Another week later Mr. A was even calmer with a YMRS score of 6.

A review of the available literature by the author was unable to elicit any other cases of a triptan causing irritability and/or hypomania. Mr. A's reaction could be attributed to either the other triptans having a half-life ranging from 2–6 hours, while frovatriptan's half-life is 25 hours causing it to more readily accumulate in the body—as it did after 3 days³ or could be caused by frovatriptan's four times greater affinity for 5HT_{1B}.⁴ If more reports of this adverse effect surface, it may become necessary to add frovatriptan to the antidepressants as possible causes of inducing mania/hypomania.

MICHAEL S. WILSON, M.D.

Louisiana State University, HSC, Department of Psychiatry New Orleans, LA

References

1. Chun BJ, Benjamin JDH, Dunner DL: A review of antidepressant-induced hypomania in major depression: suggestions for DSM-V. *Bipolar Disord* 2004; 6:32–42
2. Young RC, Biggs JT, Ziegler VE et al: A rating scale for mania: reliability, validity, and sensitivity. *Br J Psychiatry* 1978; 133:429–435
3. Elan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. FrovaTM package insert, 2004
4. Comer MB: Pharmacology of the selective 5-HT (1B/1D) agonist frovatriptan. *Headache* 2002; Suppl. 2:S47–53

IN FUTURE ISSUES

Review of Pseudobulbar Affect Including a Novel and New Potential Therapy

Randolph B. Schiffer, M.D., Laura E. Pope, Ph.D.

Neurological Soft Signs as Predictors of Treatment Response to Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors in Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

Eric Hollander, M.D., Alicia Kaplan, M.D., James Schmeidler, Ph.D., Haichen Yang, M.D., David Li, Ph.D., Luigi M. Barbato, M.D.

Role of COMT Val158Met Genotype in Executive Functioning Following Traumatic Brain Injury

Robert H. Lipsky, Ph.D., Molly B. Sparling, B.A., Laurie M. Ryan, Ph.D., Ke Xu, M.D., Ph.D., Andres M. Salazar, M.D., David Goldman, M.D., Deborah L. Warden, M.D.

Long-Term Outcome of Neurosurgery for the Treatment of Resistant Depression

Perminder S. Sachdev, MBBS, M.D., Ph.D., FRANZCP, Jagdeep Sachdev, FRANCP

Treatment of Acute Ischemic Stroke: Does It Impact Neuropsychiatric Outcome?

C. Alan Anderson, M.D., David B. Arciniegas, M.D., Christopher M. Filley, M.D.