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TREATMENT OF CYCLOSERINE INDUCED PSYCHOSIS - A CASE SERIES

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Introduction: Cycloserine is a highly effective second line anti-tuberculosis medication, the use of which has increased in recent times due to emergence of multi-drug resistance. One of the side-effects is psychosis characterized by paranoia, hallucinations and affective instability. These symptoms are usually reported within the first 2 weeks of therapy in 30-50% of patients receiving Cycloserine 500mg. At a dose of 100mg and above it leads to a hyperdopaminergic state which in turn could lead to psychosis. However, as this is a very effective treatment in people with multi-drug resistant tuberculosis, it is not always possible to omit treatment due to reemergence of life threatening illness. We present findings from few patients on this medication who were referred to us for management of psychotic symptoms.

Aims and objectives: To treat the psychotic symptoms with anti-psychotic which would enable patient to continue Cycloserine. Also to monitor the response to an anti-psychotic.

Methods: Data was collected from the patient's case notes, full psychiatric assessment and interviewing the relative. Patient was followed up in the out-patient clinic to monitor response to anti-psychotic medication.

Results: Patients were treated with both typical and atypical medication with good response and it was possible to continue with Cycloserine in one case.

Conclusion: Cycloserine induced psychosis can mimic any other psychotic illness and can be effectively treated with anti-psychotics.