Info Sheet on the Irreversible Side Effects of Psychotropic Medication
Extrapyramidal Side Effects, Tardive Dyskinesia Jaundice, and Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome
Updated 5/22/14

WHAT TO DO WHEN IRREVERSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS ARE DETECTED:

1) If the symptom is life or limb threatening, call 911 immediately.
2) As soon as possible, contact the site Nurse Case Manager. The Nurse Case Manager can provide additional instructions as needed.
3) As soon as possible, contact the psychiatrist or prescribing physician. The physician or nurse you talk to may provide additional instructions as well.

MEDICATIONS THAT CAN LEAD TO IRREVERSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

NEUROLEPTICS:

- Abilify (Aripiprazole)
- Clozaril (Clozapine) (may also treat the condition)
- Geodon (Ziprasidone)
- Haldol (Haloperidol)
- Loxitane / Loxapac (Loxapine)
- Mellaril (Thioridazine)
- Navane (Thiothixine)
- Orap (Pimozide)
- Piportil (Pipotiazine)
- Prolixin / Modecate (Fluphenazine)
- Risperdal (Risperidone)
- Serentil (Mesoridazine)
- Seroquel (Quetiapine)
- Stelazine (Trifluoperazine)
- Thorazine (Chlorpromazine)
- Trilafon (Perphenazine)
- Zyprexa (Olanzapine)

NON-NEUROLEPTICS

- Asendin (Amoxapine)
- Cocaine and other street drugs
- Elavil (Amitriptyline)
- Lithium
- Nardil (Phenelzine)
- Prozac (Fluoxetine)
- Reglan (Metoclopramide)
GENERAL GUIDELINES

PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND OUTLOOK

The prescribing physicians should attempt prevention by prescribing the lowest effective dose of these medications for the shortest possible time. After a diagnosis of tardive dyskinesia, decreasing dosage or discontinuing the problem drug(s) may solve the problem, or it may cause symptoms to worsen. If they do get worse, they may eventually go away, or they may continue indefinitely. Thus, it is important to get an early diagnosis if you suspect the consumer is exhibiting symptoms of this disorder.

A number of medications have been used to try to control the symptoms of Tardive Dyskinesia, including Clozaril (clozapine), Botox (botulinum toxin), benzodiazepines such as Klonopin (clonazepam), and several others. Treatment is not always successful.

Call the Prescribing Psychiatrist immediately if you notice the consumer experiences any of the symptoms listed above; take along the medication history to the doctor visit. While the consumer’s prescribing doctor should have their medication history the consumer may not be able to visit that particular doctor.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

Extrapyramidal Side Effects
Extrapyramidal symptoms (EPS) may develop after a single dose or after prolonged use.

What Symptoms to Look For:
- Tremor
- Rigidity
- Restlessness
- Fatigue or weakness of arms legs and continual movements of hands, mouth and body

Tardive Dyskinesia
Tardive dyskinesia is a movement disorder caused by long-term use of certain medications called neuroleptic drugs, along with some other drugs that increase the brain's sensitivity to the neurotransmitter dopamine. It is characterized by uncontrolled facial movements such as protruding tongue, chewing or sucking motions and making faces.

Tardive dyskinesia is a very serious side effect of antipsychotic medications in particular, and patients taking such drugs should know what to watch for. Drugs that can cause tardive dyskinesia are mainly antipsychotic medications.
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What Symptoms to Look For:
Tardive dyskinesia is characterized by repetitive, involuntary, purposeless movements such as:
- Fine, worm-like movements of the tongue
- Lip smacking
- Chewing or sucking movements
- Grimacing (making faces)
- Puckering or pursing the lips
- Tongue protrusion
- Rapid eye blinking
- There may also be uncontrolled movements of the arms, legs and body. According to an article at Wikipedia, "Impaired movements of the fingers may appear as though the patient is playing an invisible guitar or piano."

Jaundice
Jaundice is a serious liver disorder that can be caused by Neuroleptic medications.

What Symptoms to Look For:
- Jaundice can be easily identified by a yellow discoloration of the skin and the whites of the eyeballs. It can be confirmed through lab work.

Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome
Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome is a life-threatening, neurological disorder most often caused by an adverse reaction to neuroleptic or antipsychotic drugs. In most cases, the disorder develops within the first 2 weeks of treatment with the drug. However, the disorder may develop any time during the therapy period. It can progress to multi-system failure.

What Symptoms to Look For:
- High fever (102°F - 104°F)
- Sweating
- Unstable blood pressure
- Stupor
- Muscular rigidity
- Autonomic dysfunction
- Altered consciousness
- Seizures and tremors