DOPAMINERGIC ANTAGONISTS INDUCED MOVEMENT DISORDERS: AN APPRAISAL OF INDIAN DATA

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Shortly after revolutionizing the field of psychiatry, a number of acute and chronic side effects of dopaminergic antagonist medications were noted, majorly involving involuntary movements creating a major clinical dilemma in treating patients and posited medication non-compliance. The most common ones included parkinsonism, tardive dyskinesia and acute dystonic reactions. Even with development of atypical antipsychotics, the same gamut of disorders potentially exists for all agents. Even with withdrawal of neuroleptics, some of these movement disorders do not resolve. In these cases, knowledge of pharmacological interactions between the dopaminergic and other neurotransmitter systems helps the clinician in selecting the best treatments. The current article reviews the Indian data and is organized by the temporal evolution of movement disorders relative to exposure to neuroleptics: acute reactions seen shortly after drug initiation; sub-acute reactions occurring within weeks of usage; and chronic or tardive syndromes that emerge after months of neuroleptic exposure. With a greater awareness of the symptoms, risks and the development of newer atypical antipsychotics, it is likely that the incidence and prevalence of neuroleptic induced movement disorders will gradually improve over the coming years.