Deanol aceglumate

First report of tardive dyskinesia?: case report

After 10 years of successful therapy with deanol aceglumate for essential tremor, a 58-year-old woman experienced increasing neck pain, and then developed persistent choreatic orofacial and respiratory dyskinesia. She had been prescribed deanol aceglumate in daily doses of 300-900mg, with a total dose of 1.423kg over the 10 years.

The orofacial symptoms interfered with eating. Respiratory symptoms included severe dyspnoea and gasping. After withdrawal from the drug, the symptoms became severe; intubation was considered several times. The symptoms improved with biperiden, tiapride and diazepam therapy. Over 9 months her condition improved, allowing her to discontinue all drugs. A mild orofacial dyskinesia and slight torticollis persisted and the woman’s tremor recurred; however, she was unwilling to accept any other medication.

Author comments: 'Tardive dyskinesia is not yet a recognised side effect of deanol, but our patient may be the first one affected.'