Perampanel

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Suicidality: 3 case reports

Three patients developed suicidality while receiving perampanel [Fycompa] for treatment-resistant epilepsy [*routes not stated*].

A 21-year-old woman with focal epilepsy of unknown origin began receiving perampanel 2 mg/day in March 2013; the dosage was gradually increased to 8 mg/day over the following months. In July 2013, she presented with dizziness, blurred vision, weight gain, irritability and unusual sensitivity. Three days later, she reported that she had been having suicidal thoughts for 3–4 weeks. She would take a knife and prick it into her heart. The serum concentration of perampanel was 200 ng/mL. Perampanel was discontinued, and she recovered a few days later.

A 22-year-old woman with focal epilepsy of unknown origin and a history of a prior suicide attempt 7 years previously started receiving perampanel 4 mg/day. The drug sometimes caused her to feel dizzy and unwell. After 8 weeks of treatment, she reported a 4-week history of abnormal sensitivity, aggression and feeling "thin-skinned". She had been having suicidal thoughts for several days, and tried to stab a knife into her leg. The serum concentration of perampanel was 1119 ng/mL. Perampanel was discontinued, and her condition normalised.

A 22-year-old man with intellectual disability and epilepsy due to bilateral perisylvian polymicrogyria (Foix-Chavany-Marie syndrome) started receiving perampanel 100 mg/day. The drug sometimes caused dizziness and nausea. He became suicidal after 4 months of treatment, experiencing "bad thoughts", sadness and angst. He began questioning his self-worth, and repeatedly visualised himself being run over by a train. Perampanel was discontinued, and his symptoms resolved.

Author comment: "*[T]he risk of suicidal ideas or behavior induced by PER [perampanel] may be higher than has been assumed up to now*."

Huber B. Increased risk of suicidality on perampanel (Fycompa)?. Epilepsy and Behavior 31: 71-72, Feb 2014. Available from: URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.yebeh.2013.11.017 - Germany

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