

Periciazine



First report of paroxysmal perceptual alteration: case report

A 24-year-old woman developed paroxysmal perceptual alteration while receiving periciazine for generalised anxiety disorder.

The woman began receiving periciazine 45 mg/day. After 2 months, she developed terrifying episodes with oculogyric crises. The episodes consisted of tiny objects that appeared to be prominent and approached her. She said that, during each episode, the light became brighter and the pattern of the wall seemed more vivid. Her symptoms occurred about once a week. They started suddenly in the evening and lasted for about 30 minutes. Her eyes would roll upwards with each episode.

The woman received IM biperiden. Her periciazine dosage was decreased to 5 mg/day. Her perceptual alteration and oculogyric crises resolved. Her generalised anxiety disorder was in remission for a year, but then she relapsed. Periciazine was increased to 45 mg/day and biperiden was added to prevent oculogyric crises. After 2 weeks, the episodes returned. Colours seemed more vivid, and the contrast between shadow and light appeared more prominent. However, her eyes did not roll upwards. She took an additional 5mg tablet of periciazine to try to relieve her symptoms, but they worsened. She was diagnosed with paroxysmal perceptual alteration and her biperiden dosage was increased. In 2 weeks, her paroxysmal perceptual alteration disappeared.

Author comment: "[T]he dopaminergic imbalance induced by antipsychotic agents in the basal ganglia may lead to [paroxysmal perceptual alteration] as a sensory manifestation and/or [oculogyric crises] as a motor counterpart."

Uchida H, et al. Antipsychotics-induced hypersensitivity of visual perception. *European Psychiatry* 21: 343-344, No. 5, Jul 2006 - Japan 801047750

» **Editorial comment:** A search of AdisBase and Medline did not reveal any previous case reports of visual perceptual alteration associated with periciazine. The WHO Adverse Drug Reactions database contained four reports of abnormal thinking associated with periciazine.