that could be suppressed voluntarily for a short period. Furthermore, his speech had become strained and low volumed, at times disappearing altogether. The dosage of clonazepam was gradually reduced to 2 mg/day over the following 2 weeks. This resulted in the exacerbation of the HPX. The Tourette-like symptoms gradually diminished over the next month and his speech became more clear and loud.

Serotoninergic mechanisms have been implicated in the pathogenesis of Tourette syndrome. Singer et al. and Crosley have postulated that serotonin deficiency underlies the major symptoms of this illness. In fact, cyproheptadine (a serotonin antagonist) has been reported to exacerbate Tourette syndrome. In view of this, it is surprising that our patient developed this syndrome following administration of a serotonin agonist which would be expected if anything to ameliorate such a condition. However, it is significant that the syndrome only appeared approximately 2 months after therapy with clonazepam had been initiated. This may indicate that the agent produced subsensitivity of postsynaptic serotonin receptors during this period resulting in the presentation of a paradoxical Tourette syndrome.

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References


Hypercalcaemia due to sarcoidosis

Sir,
Dr Gibbs and Dr Peacock maintain that hypercalcaemic sarcoidosis results from a raised serum 1,25 dihydroxy vitamin D. They do not say, however, why it occurs in the first place. It is likely that the increased vitamin D level is secondary to the apparent disappearance of the parathyroid hormone in these cases. Immunoglobulins secreted by granulomas in the parathyroid glands appear to block the actions of the hormone, unless hydrocortisone is given as well. The hypercalcaemia is then corrected in most cases, and the vitamin D3 falls to normal, also. The abnormality persists, however, in exceptional cases, probably because there is then tertiary hyperparathyroidism or a parathyroid adenoma present. Thirty six cases of this rare syndrome have been reported.

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References

Hypercalcaemia due to sarcoidosis

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