**Title** : Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome as a Result of Abrupt Cessation of Clozapine.

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**Introduction**

Neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS) can be caused by the usage of anti-dopaminergic drugs which are typically used psychiatric patients. We report such a case that presented with the syndrome not due to the drug toxicity but from the sudden cessation of the drug usage.

**Case Presentation**

39 Malay lady with underlying schizophrenia brought in by the mother after found unresponsive. Patient observed to be sleeping excessively for past 2 days. Patient was tachycardic at 135 bpm with temperature of 39.3 degrees Celcius. Capillary blood sugar was 6.8 mmol/L. Both pupils were normal in size and reactive. Patient’s GCS was noted to be 11/15 (Eye 4, Verbal 2 and Motor 5). Bilateral upper limb and lower limb rigidity were noted upon examination. Normal neurological reflex noted for all limbs. Upon further questioning, patient was on tablet clozapine 125 mg on morning and 450mg on night. Patient was also on tablet clonazepam 0.5mg PRN. The mother informed the team that she controlled the drugs to be given and for the past 2 days, patient did not take the drugs. Patient was given IV Diazepam 5 mg stat. The GCS improved to 14 (E4V4M6) and rigidity improved. Investigation wise, phosphate level was low at 0.4 mmol/L. Urea was 5.7 mmol/L and creatinine 119 ummol/L and creatinine kinase was 652 U/L. Diagnosis of neuroleptic malignant syndrome (NMS) was made. Patient was subsequently admitted and regained full GCS in the ward. The anti-psychiatric medications were restarted in the ward and patient was discharged well with follow up planned by the psychiatric team.

**Discussion**

Sudden withdrawal of antidopaminergic drugs especially clozapine had been reported before. NMS symptoms present typically within 2 days of cessation of the drug. Our case depicts NMS syndrome upon cessation of clozapine in 2 days.

**Conclusion**

This case illustrates that NMS can occur not only as a side-effect of anti-dopaminergic drug (in this case clozapine) but also abrupt withdrawal of the drug. The cause of this condition in this case was not due to drug toxicity but instead it’s cessation.