



A RARE CASE OF HAIR LOSS DUE TO USE OF ARIPIPRAZOLE - A CASE REPORT

Psychiatry

Dr Amit Kumar*Postgraduate Student, Department of Psychiatry, SVMCH & RC, Ariyur, Puducherry
*Corresponding Author**Dr M Asokkumar**

Professor, Department of Psychiatry, SVMCH & RC, Ariyur, Puducherry

KEYWORDS

Aripiprazole, hair loss

BACKGROUND –

Aripiprazole is a new generation antipsychotic that has a partial agonist effect on Dopamine-D2 receptor. Hair loss has been reported in few cases with the use of Aripiprazole. In our literature review, we came across hair loss with Aripiprazole in 2 case reports only. (1, 2) We are reporting one such case of hair loss associated with Aripiprazole use.

Case Report–

A 33 Year old lady diagnosed as a case of Schizophrenia was treated with Tab. Olanzapine 10mg for 6 months. Patient reported symptomatic improvement with olanzapine but was concerned about weight gain, so a plan to cross titrate with Tab. Aripiprazole 10mg was made. Patient reported to have stopped aripiprazole, within 2 weeks of treatment, due to hair loss. Patient had stopped aripiprazole and restarted olanzapine on her own for the next 2 weeks. Patient was reassured during follow up visit and aripiprazole was restarted. The patient again reported severe hair loss following which she stopped aripiprazole. Patient is currently maintaining well on olanzapine 5mg a day. Dermatological opinion was not taken as she had already quit taking Aripiprazole and reported significant reduction in hair loss at the time of consultation. Patient was not a known case of Diabetes Mellitus, Hypertension or Thyroid disorder.

DISCUSSION –

Aripiprazole is a potent 5-HT_{2A} antagonist and is indicated for the treatment of both schizophrenia and acute mania. It is also approved for augmentation of antidepressant agents in MDD. Aripiprazole is a D₂ antagonist, but can also act as a partial D₂ agonist. Partial D₂ agonists compete at D₂ receptors for endogenous dopamine, thereby producing a functional reduction of dopamine activity.

Alopecia is defined as loss of more than 100 hairs per day. Hair loss due to Aripiprazole is a rare complication. It has been suggested that hair loss is due to the direct toxic effects of Aripiprazole on Hair follicle. Various drugs are noted to cause hair loss including Antineoplastic drugs, Lithium, Valproate, Antidepressants and antipsychotic drugs.

Hair follicles pass through 3 phases in their growth, namely- Anagen, Catagen and Telogen. Anagen phase lasts for up to few years, catagen phase from few weeks to months and telogen phase usually lasts up to 100 days.

Antineoplastic drugs are hypothesized to interfere with Anagen stage of hair growth, which leads to interruption of mitosis and cessation of hair growth.

Psychotropic drugs are hypothesized to interfere with Telogen phase of hair growth and known as Telogen effluvium. Here, hair follicles prematurely enter the Telogen phase, which is the resting phase of the hair growth, leading to early hair fall.

It has also been suggested that Psychotropic drugs cause chelation of zinc, copper, and selenium, leading to their depletion, which are necessary for hair growth.

CONCLUSION

The severity of hair loss after taking drug depends on type of drug and their dosages, as well as sensitivity to drug. The exact mechanism of hair loss due to Aripiprazole is still not well understood, and needs further study.

REFERENCES-

- (1) Demir AC, Ozcan O. Aripiprazole-related alopecia: A case report. *Annals of Medical Research*. 2017;24(4):500-1.
- (2) Bilgin YY, Yagci I, Serhat TU, Atagun MI. Hair loss due to aripiprazole use: a case report. *The European Research Journal*. 2015;1(2):85-7.
- (3) Kuloglu M, Korkmaz S, Kilic N, Saglam S, Gurok MG, Atmaca M. Olanzapine induced hair loss: a case report. *Klinik Psikofarmakoloji Bülteni-Bulletin of Clinical Psychopharmacology*. 2012 Dec 1;22(4):362-6.
- (4) Leung M, Wrixon K, Remick RA. Olanzapine-induced hair loss. *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*. 2002 Nov;47(9):891-2.