Reviewer’s report

Title: Topiramate induced psychosis in a family with essential tremor: a case report

Version: 2 Date: 20 February 2008

Reviewer: Debra Kahn

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 9 criteria for evaluation in the journal: Unreported or unusual side effects or adverse interactions involving medications

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: Yes

Does the case report have explanatory value?: No

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

The authors have presented an interesting case of a rare familial side effect of a medication. This case invites investigation into genetic factors contributing to the reported medication side effect. My criticism of the report is largely one of editing and writing style.

The case report would be more persuasive if the case itself was presented in a more linear/convincing fashion- ie including duration of psychotic symptoms, clarification of medication dosage and timecourse, re-working of statement "driven him to alcohol abuse," more details about medical investigation into psychotic symptoms.

I would also recommend a clarification of PADS findings- ie clarifying the basal rate of psychosis in a population, the rate in patients with epilepsy, and the rate in those on topiramate.

SHould there be a citation after the statement that "past psychiatric history is the strongest predictor for psychiatric adverse events?"
What next?: Revise and resubmit

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published