Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 2 Date: 27 February 2008

Reviewer: Martin Punter

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 9 criteria for evaluation in the journal: An unexpected association between diseases or symptoms

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?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: Yes

Will the case report make a difference to clinical practice?: Yes

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?: Yes

Comments to authors:

When introducing topiramate the authors should initially present the licensed indications (generalised and focal onset epilepsies, and migraine) and then list the use as 'off-label' indications including that in essential tremor. This is important as a learning point in cases of drug induced side effects due to medicolegal implications.

Within the body of the case presentation, paragraph 2, sentence 3 - more detail should be given (if available) on the dose titration of topiramate, although "standard dose and titration" is mentioned in the discussion. Sentence 4 - clarification of which period is meant by "during this time..." would be helpful.

Other points useful to mention would be to specify that neither the index case nor his sister had previously suffered with psychiatric symptoms if this is the case, and also to list any first line medications that had been used for the essential tremor in the index case (e.g. beta blockers)
What next?: Accept after minor revisions

Quality of written English: Acceptable