Reviewer’s report

Title: Decrease in tobacco consumption after treatment with topiramate and aripiprazole

Version: 4 Date: 11 February 2008

Reviewer: Maneesh Gupta

I am familiar with the literature and believe that this case meets one of the 7 criteria for evaluation in the journal: An unexpected event in the course of observing or treating a patient

Has the case been reported coherently?: No

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is this case worth reporting?: Yes

Is the case report persuasive?: No

Does the case report have explanatory value?: Yes

Does the case report have diagnostic value?: No

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

Comments to authors:

General comments: The case report is very interesting. Use of Topiramate and Aripiprazole for reducing tobacco consumption, is a novel clinical idea. The authors have also used this clinical example to discuss possibilities of treatment mechanism. What is also interesting is that his mental deterioration (WMS III and BVRT) was halted and reversed on the treatment prescribed.

Revisions suggested:

1. The title suggests a case report dealing with a clinical example. However, the introduction and discussion focus on mechanisms of treatment in this case. It would be better if the authors could focus on the clinical report itself.

2. The case report section of the article, starts a few months back; then reports past medical history and then catches up on the ongoing psychiatric events. It would be much more useful if the case report section was organised into presentation/present history and past history etc.

3. The authors have mentioned the patients tobacco consumption, but have not provided any information on the tool they used to validate the number of
cigarettes he was smoking. Was it patient report, or mother’s report or some more objective measure.

4. The description of the patients mental state is lacking. At each presentation to mental health services, it would be interesting to know his mood/affect, thought process and perception.

5. Although the authors focus on Topiramate and Aripiprazole, they mention that 'lormetazapam was changed to trazaodon'. Why leave trazodone out? Was it continuing before the introduction of topiramate and aripiprazole?

6. Even if the authors are able to validate all the prescribing actions and the clinical outcome, it must be mentioned that this was/is a patient who had suffered from mild/moderate encephalopathy, and hence the generalisability of the use of topiramate and aripiprazole may be limited.

7. Minor Revision: English. Still needs minor changes in the language and punctuation.

What next?: Revise and resubmit

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