Author's response to reviews

Title: Bipolar patient treated with lithium, haloperidol and benztropine during pregnancy presented with unexpected depletion in plasma choline and phosphatidylcholine: a case report

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Version: 3 Date: 19 November 2007

Author's response to reviews: see over
November 18, 2007

Editor-in-chief
Journal Medical Case Reports

Dear Sir/Madam,

In response to your letter dated November 13, 20067 please find attached the re-submitted article (MS: 6830416771600629) titled:

“Bipolar patient treated with lithium, haloperidol and benztropine during pregnancy presented with unexpected depletion in plasma choline and phosphatidylcholine: a case report”

for consideration for publication in “Journal Medical Case Reports”.

The paper has been revised, addressing all the recommendations of the reviews. Below is a list of the changes made:

1. A concern about disjointedness was expressed. The authors have reviewed this concern and hope that the overall editing of the discussion will satisfy the reviewers.

2. Possible differences/changes in diet is critical point. The lack of information on this data was a reason the authors remained conservative about the conclusions. Page 6, paragraph 2, sentence 2 was added to note the limitation of the lack of dietary information. Further, page 7, paragraph 2, sentence 1 was added to specifically address lack of dietary information on phosphatidylcholine and choline.

3. Page 3, paragraph 2, sentence 2 addresses the comments about the documented studies showing that low plasma levels of choline and phosphatidylcholine attributed to lithium don’t necessary translate to low levels in the brain. However, page 7, paragraph 1 highlights the reports from animal studies that show that inadequate availability of these nutrients can negatively impact brain function.
4. Page 6, paragraph 2, sentence 2 addresses evidence that show mood stabilizers can cause low birth weight.

5. Page 6, paragraph 3, sentence 4 reports on the link between inadequate phosphatidylcholine concentrations and birth weight. Additionally, while no human studies could be found, page 7, paragraph 1 reports that inadequate availability of these nutrients can negatively impact brain function.

6. Page 7, paragraph 2, sentence 4 tries to address the reviewers’ request for dietary recommendations; however, the authors tried to remained conservative on the conclusions drawn from this case. Further since there was no information on the influence of haloperidol and benztropine on plasma choline and phosphatidylcholine, nothing could be deduced about the outcomes of the drug combination. However, page 7, paragraph 1 highlights the reports from animal studies that show that inadequate availability of these nutrients can negatively impact brain function.

7. The paper has also been reviewed to correct grammatical errors.

Regards,

Maxine Gossell-Williams