Reviewer’s report

Title: Unusual Causes of Parkinsonism: a case series

Version: 3 Date: 14 August 2010

Reviewer: RUFUS AKINYEMI

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Unreported or unusual side effects or adverse interactions involving medications

Has the case been reported coherently?: Yes

Is the case report authentic?: Yes

Is the case report ethical?: Yes

Is there any missing information that you think must be added before publication?: 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:

Some typographical errors:
Page 3 line 6: antimalarial drug........
Pg 3 line 7: anti-arrythmic effect
Pg 3 second to the last line; elusive
Pg 4 line 1: brain stem
Pg 4 ,line 10: what dose of quinine did she take? How many mg is a tablet?
Pg 6 line 1: delete ...."patient was started"......

Pg 6 line 1 (Discussion): “Drugs are the most common cause of parkinsonism in the general population” ---- Or you wanted to say that drug-induced parkinsonism

Pg 6: Contrary to the claim of Chabolla et al Susatia and Fernandez above report that DIP and PD can be differentiated.

Pg 7 line 6: Rather than loss of dopamine, I'd rather think that these agents simply affect dopamine dynamics as you mentioned earlier in the report (ie alteration of pre- or postsynaptic activity)

General Notes:
These additional points and references may further enrich the paper.


2. Quinine has been shown in a rat model to block K+ channels in corpus striatum (see Freedman JE, Weight FF. Eur J Pharmacol. 1989 May 19;164(2):341-6.

3. Halothane has been shown to decrease dopaminergic activity in rat brain slices (see Adachi et al: Neurochemistry International 40 (2001) 189–193).

Apart from these minor corrections, this case report is a notable addition to knowledge on the possible side effects of Quinine and Halothane as well as on causes of drug-induced parkinsonism. It should stimulate surveillance on these drugs which are particularly in common use in the less developed and malarious regions of the world.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Declaration of competing interests:
'I declare that I have no competing interests'