Reviewer’s report

Title: Atypical course in severe catatonic schizophrenia in a cannabis dependent male adolescent: a case report

Version: 2 Date: 21 May 2015

Reviewer: Mehmet akif Camkurt

Which of the following best describes what type of case report this is?: Unexpected or unusual presentations of a disease

Do you believe the case report is authentic?:

This case report is authentic in terms of disease symptoms

Do you have any ethical concerns?:

I didn't read anything about written or verbal approval

Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?:

Yes

Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?:

Yes

Does the article report relevant patient information?: Yes

Does the article report relevant physical examination findings?: Yes

Does the article report important dates and times in this case?: No

Does the article report the diagnostic assessments?: Yes

Does the article report the types of intervention?: Yes

Does the article report a summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits?: Yes

Is the interpretation (discussion and conclusion) well balanced and supported by the case presented?:

No
Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?:

A little

Was written informed consent to publish this case obtained?: No

Is the anonymity of the patient protected?:

Yes

Additional comments to authors?:

In this manuscript authors are defining a case, presenting with first episode related with cannabis use and following regular schizophrenia with severe attacks. My recommendations are as following

1- "A link has been described between heavy cannabis smoking and chronic psychosis." this sentence should be removed from abstract

2- First paragraph of introduction is completely unnecessary. Should be removed. Because in this case neither genetic nor neurodevelopmental disturbances are important.

3- Introduction section is too long for a case report, should be shortened according to the case. Introduction section should include a short explanation of regular presentation of adolescent psychosis, drug use-abuse in adolescents and presentation of affective psychosis in adolescents

4- 2nd and 3rd Paragraphs in introduction section could be considered as first paragraphs of discussion.

5- During reading, it is hard to cooperate with case presentation. Chronological order of symptoms and interventions are vague. Case presentation is too long also.

6- Describing “a potentially unique clinical course” is too speculative for this case report.

7- Patients’ history reveals several factors like immigration, multiple substance use and stressful life events which could be potential risk factors in this case report. It is too hard to explain this case report as a “first episode related with cannabis and following regular schizophrenia” because of these potential risk factors.

8- Authors mentioned “affective psychosis” too much in the manuscript, in regard of differential diagnosis. Introduction section should include a short description of presentation of affective psychosis in adolescents.

9- Patients’ history defines a clear paranoid schizophrenia according to DSM IV along with catatonia. I think it is hard to classify this patient as catatonic subtype. It should be better to refine case topic as “Atypical presentation of psychosis with catatonic and paranoid features in a male adolescent”

10- Effects of drug use and abuse and other risk factors are confusing for this
case report.

11- An episode starting at age 17 is not so unusual I think. Defining onset of positive symptoms at age 17 as “atypical” should be refined. Because it is somehow expected age and presentation for schizophrenia. The interesting points about this case report are paranoid symptoms together with catatonia and severity of episodes. I recommend authors to focus this specifications and mention other factors as triggers.

12- There are some grammatical and spelling errors in the text. I recommend text to be reviewed by a native speaker.

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**Quality of written English:** Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no conflict of interest