Reviewer’s report

Title: Treatment of pruritus in a palliative patient with low dose paroxetine: a case report

Version: 0 Date: 16 Jul 2017

Reviewer: Rahul Arora

Reviewer’s report:

1. Do you believe the case report is authentic?

Yes

2. Do you have any ethical concerns? Please consider if local Institutional Review Board approval or ethical approval was obtained (if appropriate) and if the patient (or their parent or guardian in the case of children under 18) gave written, informed consent to publish this case and any accompanying images. A statement to this effect should appear in the manuscript.

Comments: None

3. Does the Introduction explain the relevance of the case to the medical literature?

Yes/No

No

4. Does the article report the following information? Where information is missing, please specify.

a. The relevant patient information, including:

- De-identified demographic information (age, gender, ethnicity) Yes

- Main symptoms of the patient Yes

- Medical, family and psychosocial history No

- Relevant past interventions and their outcomes No

b. The relevant physical examination findings No
c. Important dates and times in this case (if appropriate, organized as a timeline via a figure or table); if specific dates could lead to patient identification, consider including time relevant to initial presentation, i.e. initial presentation at T = 0, follow up at T = 1 month.

No

d. Diagnostic assessments, including:

- Diagnostic methods No
- Challenges (e.g., financial, language/cultural) No
- Reasoning and prognostic characteristics (e.g., staging), where applicable No

e. Types and mechanism of intervention No

f. A summary of the clinical course of all follow-up visits No

Comments:

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

Comments: No

6. Is the anonymity of the patient protected? Please consider any identifying information in images such as facial features or nametags, whether the patient is named etc. If not, please detail below.

Yes/No

Yes

7. Is the Abstract representative of the case presented?

Comments:

No

8. Does the case represent a useful contribution to the medical literature?
9. Additional comments for the author(s)? The etiopathogenesis of the pruritus has not been explained. The contention that this is the first time that Paroxetine has been used for refractory/intractable pruritus is contentious. A step ladder for the management of pruritus, the definition of intractable and refractory pruritus needs to be included in the list of references. The Palliative Care formulary fifth edition offers more robust and incisive evidence on the management of pruritus.

Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Needs some language corrections before being published

Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.
I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal.