

"Doctor This Medication Atrophy My Testicles": a Clinical Case of Sexual Dysfunction and Antipsychotic Medication.

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Introduction: Living with a psychotic illness, it is now possible, in particular thanks to advances in psychopharmacology, and the discovery of antipsychotic medications. However, even when the patient is stable and free from psychotic symptoms, new challenges arise including control of the medications side effects. Sexual dysfunction is particularly common and can be very troublesome when the patient wants to resume a normal life. Objective: The aim of this paper is to present a case of sexual dysfunction induced by antipsychotics, and to briefly review the literature on the subject. Methodology: We followed-up a 44 years patient with diagnosis of schizophrenia, and who developed sexual dysfunction secondary to antipsychotic medication. Through Pubmed / Medline we conducted a brief literature review on the topic using the keywords: "antipsychotics" and "sexual dysfunction". Results: This case demonstrated the importance for the patient of sexual side effects, which manifested itself with several antipsychotics including risperidone, quetiapine, olanzapine, and paliperidone. We can only solve symptoms of sexual dysfunction with aripiprazole in monotherapy. Discussion: Sexual function is a determinant of the quality of life aspect of psychotic patients. The literature review showed that all antipsychotics have the potential to negatively affect sexual function. However, some antipsychotics as aripiprazole and ziprasidone are associated with lower degrees of sexual dysfunction. Some strategies for dealing with these side effects are dose reduction, their replacement for another antipsychotic, the association of aripiprazole, and the association of an adjunctive therapy to sexuality.