

EFFECT OF TOPIRAMATE TREATMENT IN A PATIENT AFFECTED BY SYMPTOMATIC TRIGEMINAL NEURALGIA

Gallelli Luca,¹ Siniscalchi Antonio,² Borner Perrone Ina,¹ Davoli Alessandro,¹ De Sarro Giovambattista¹

¹Chair of Pharmacology, Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University Magna Graecia of Catanzaro, Italy.

²Department of Neuroscience, Neurology Division, “Annunziata” Hospital, Cosenza, Italy

Trigeminal neuralgia, is a paroxysmal form of facial pain usually affecting the second and third divisions of the trigeminal nerve, and which occurs in 1.9% - 4.4% of patients affected by multiple sclerosis. We report on woman with multiple sclerosis who developed trigeminal neuralgia that was responsive only to topiramate treatment.

A 45-year-old woman with an 8-year history of multiple sclerosis developed episodes of left facial pain, usually lasting <5 minutes occurred several times a day. Neurological evaluation showed a diagnosis of trigeminal neuralgia secondary to multiple sclerosis with the involvement of maxillary and mandibular branches and associated hypoaesthesia in these trigeminal areas. The patient was started on carbamazepine and continued taking this for 2 years. Because of low clinical response, carbamazepine was discontinued and gabapentin commenced. After 2 weeks, persistence of symptoms led to an increase in gabapentin dosage, but the appearance of somnolence 4 weeks later prompted discontinuation of gabapentin and initiation of topiramate. After 7 days the patient reported an improvement in pain and sensory loss, and complete remission of trigeminal neuralgia was observed. This case suggests that topiramate could represent a useful therapeutic option in the treatment of symptomatic trigeminal neuralgia.