
NEUROLEPTIC MALIGNANT SYNDROME. A RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS

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INTRODUCTION:Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS) comprises several systemic manifestations which can be life threatening. Its pathogenesis is unknown but it is known to be associated with the use of antipsychotic drugs. Some cases are still seen in General Hospitals despite the extended use of atypical neuroleptics. The main clinical features includes mental status changes, fever, rigidity and autonomic instability. Due to the potential gravity, the identification of risk factors and early clinical diagnosis is essential in order to prevent or treat it successfully.

OBJECTIVES: The objective of this study is to analyze the profile of patients who present NMS and the related risk factor described in the literature.

METHODS: A sample of patients diagnosed with NMS was selected. They were hospitalized in the 12 de Octubre University Hospital of Madrid over the last 10 years. The demographic variables, signs and symptoms and the risk factors were evaluated by a retrospective and descriptive analysis.

RESULTS: the clinical manifestations were similar to those reported in other series. Several risk factors reported in the literature were observed.

CONCLUSIONS:

1. It is essential the early suspect of this syndrome in patients with risk factors.
2. In patients in whom the disorder is suspected, treatment should be initiated immediately.