

HOW OFTEN ARE CHRONIC MOTOR TICS IN TOURETTE'S SYNDROME SEEN DURING SLEEP?

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Tourette's syndrome is a disorder with onset in childhood, which is characterized by motor or vocal tics. However, in some cases, these tics may also continue during sleep. A 15-year-old-male patient was admitted to hospital due to involuntary movements. The movements were in the form of tics in the arms and shoulders. Hyperactivity was added to these when the patient was of primary school age and he had been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. An obsession with symmetry and order was detected on the patient's examination by a child psychiatrist. It was considered that he had Tourette's syndrome. On neurological examination, more frequently monitored complex motor tics were noticed in the right arm, in particular. In addition it was clearly seen that vocal or phonic tics were found in the patient's past time for two years. His polysomnography and video electroencephalogram were recorded. No epileptic activity was determined during the patient's complex motor movements. A daily dose of 50 mg sertraline and one of 50 mg sulpiride were administered to the patient. Administration of sulpiride was discontinued due to no decrease in movements and a daily dose of 1 mg clonazepam was administered in its place. The administration of clonazepam was observed, to a large extent, to improve the complex motor tics seen during the day and during sleep. Our case is of great importance since it shows that complex motor tics in Tourette's syndrome continue more often during sleep and they respond dramatically to clonazepam treatment.