

Oral Presentation - 18

The Effect of Tramadol on Sexual Function: A Case Series

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Abstract

Introduction: An effect of tramadol on sexual function is presumed to occur. This aspect of tramadol use and intoxication has been explained in articles, but few studies have evaluated the effect of tramadol on sexual performance. The aim of this study was to examine whether tramadol affects sexual activity.

Methods: All cases admitted to our center with tramadol poisoning between July 2009 and September 2011 were evaluated. Patients were asked about dosage, interval, and purpose of the drug use, subjective sense of sexual satisfaction, and the occurrence of subjective weakness after sexual intercourse. Those who stated increased sexual performance or libido with tramadol use were included in the study while those who did not wish to enter in the study stated co-ingestion of other drugs, and/or used tramadol for other purposes were not included in the study. Patients' demographic characteristics, dose, time interval, and purpose of tramadol use were studied.

Results: From 137 cases with tramadol toxicity, 71 who had used tramadol to increase sexual performance or libido were included. The mean age was 23.6years (± 4.4 ; range, 17-34 years) and mean tramadol dose was 300 mg (± 146.5 ; range, 50-600 mg). Mean time elapsed between tramadol ingestion and sexual intercourse was 3.8 hours. (± 2.1 ; range, 1-9 hours). 40 patients (57%) reported a satisfactory sexual experience. From those with subjective sense of satisfaction, 100 % reported prolonged generalized weakness after intercourse. From those with unsatisfactory sexual experience, 97% had generalized weakness before intercourse.

Mean interval between tramadol consumption and intercourse was 2.1hrs (± 0.8) and 5.2hrs (± 1.7) for patients with and without desired sexual effect, respectively ($p < 0.001$). Sexual satisfaction was not linked to tramadol dose or patient's age; on the other hand, age was not related to dose and time interval.

Conclusion: About half of the patients with tramadol toxicity used it to affect sexual performance. More than half experienced the desired effect and all who have used the drug about the time of intercourse, stated excessive generalized weakness after intercourse. Those with longer interval between usage of the drug and intercourse complained from weakness before intercourse and sexual dissatisfaction.