

Gillian Mackenzie

From: Gillian Mackenzie [Code A]
Sent: 21 September 2012 12:14
To: 'White, John'
Subject: Ferner - comments

Item 19 Dr. Banks recommended Haloperidol 500 micrograms three times daily as regular prescription possibly adding 50 mg trazodone each morning. There is no "possibly" Mother had both. BMA Guide to medicines " Frequency and timing of doses 2-4 x daily. Mental illness Adult dosage range 1.5 -20mg daily initially increasing gradually, if necessary up to a maximum of 200mg daily. Severe anxiety 1 mg daily.

Side effects:- drowsiness/lethargy, loss of appetite, Parkinsonism Common. Dizziness , rash, Highfever/confusion rare I would comment not so rare if given with Trazadone.

Interactions

Sedatives – all drugs that have a sedative effect are likely to increase the sedative properties of haloperidol. Etc.etc. I will send you photocopies of the actual pages in the BMA Guide.

Reduced dose may be necessary for the over 60s.

Prolonged use of drug for more than few months may lead to tardive dyskinesia. See my original statement. I understand mother had haloperidol even before arriving at Gosport – Lesley informed me.

The main drawback to the use of haloperidol is that it produces disturbing side effects. Note the adjustment by Banks (February) later to take my mother off haloperidol and burn lavender oil in her room at night to relax and induce sleep Too much lavender makes me feel sick. No advice was given re. alcohol. Note Duration of action 6 – 24 hours. Onset of effect 2-3 hours . I am surprised my mother was ever able to talk . No wonder by March she was considered to be "more settled" - that is not what I would call it . Bassett GP Lee on Solent put her back on Haloperidol at the request of Nursing Home. See note in Livesley's report re. Bassett's letter to me – I will hunt for the letter. I sent Basset a copy of Toxic Psychiatry – also referred to in Livesley's reading list and his comments re. Basset.

Item 20 Correction. No – 17 falls between April 1998 - and July. This information came to light due to the Social Services, Inspectorate of Nursing Homes investigation . Social Services called in by Haslar hospital. Do you want the Minutes of the Meeting attended by Lesley and myself. Lesley insists she visited almost everyday but was unaware.

Item 22 – misinterpretation.

Reid was called in by Haslar because I wanted time to find another Nursing Home and did not want her to return to Glen Heathers. It is on the Haslar file. Discussed with Haslar staff and Social Services. Reid was called in to assess whether Gosport would take her for "2-4" weeks " I requested if possible 6 weeks as I was going to have to travel between Gosport and Eastbourne and I was not going to leave it to Lesley – as Glen Heathers had been chosen as a friend of her daughter's worked there. Trazadone had been cancelled once before at Glen Heathers and my mother was more alert. It was also cancelled by Haslar on arrival as it was not necessary. What was Reid doing saying he had cancelled it. His recommendation to prescribe more haloperidol or thioridazine was somewhat premature. Do any of these Consultants know the side effects of these drugs. The side effects would have been almost identical – Is this a case of a rose by any other name etc. assuming we will accept if another name given.

Item 23 – note on file she was not given thioridazine as she was asleep. Once again was the House Officer acting on Reid's recommendations or the Haslar Consultant who had taken her off Trazadone. Reid was not called in to advise Haslar.

More anon Gillian