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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Postural tremor due to use of omalizumab

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Effectiveness of anti IgE treatment is not only restricted to inhibition of allergen IgE interaction. It has rather complicated consequences. Stimulation of FceRI in human umbilical cord mast cells cause to substantial change in expression of many genes, including 18 cytokines, 13 chemokines, and several adhesion molecules involved in potential interactions with T cells, B cells, or dendritic cells [1]. Omalizumab is a humanized, monoclonal IgG antibody that binds specifically to circulating IgE molecules, thus interrupting the allergic cascade and it is licensed for use in severe asthma [2]. However, a growing number of reports suggest that anti-IgE treatment may also be beneficial to patients suffering from other IgE-related or unrelated conditions, including cold urticaria, solar urticaria, chronic spontaneous and autoimmune urticaria, symptomatic dermographism, idiopathic angioedema, peanut allergy, latex sensitivity, systemic mastocytosis etc [3].

24-year-old female patient was referred to our movement disorder clinic with complaints of tremor at both hands. Her past medical history included Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF) which is diagnosed after genetic consulting and multiple allergies to drugs, latex, nickel and foods. Her allergist started anti IgE treatment (omalizumab) at the dose of 300 mg/month via subcutaneous route for chronic urticaria and angioedema. Approximately 10 days after the third dose of omalizumab she began to feel tremor in her hands which is become more pronounced with anxiety. She also had kinetic tremor and postural condition. This tremor disappears when the upper extremities are in rest. Romberg test was negative, there was no dysdiyadokokinesia, cranial nerve examination, muscle tone and reflex tests were generally normal. Archimedean spiral drawing was damaged. Cranial MRI was normal. Biochemistry, complete blood count, thyroid function tests, urine-serum copper and ceruloplasmin levels were normal.

Consequent injections of the drug produce the same tremor and it lasts up to 2 weeks. She has already received totally seven doses of omalizumab and still has the tremor without any change.

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