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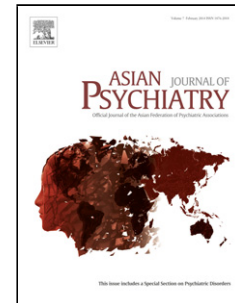
Title: Valproic acid and alopecia: A two-edged sword

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Title: Valproic acid and alopecia: a paradoxical phenomenon.

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Abstract: Valproic acid is being used as the first line of treatment for multiple types of seizures disorders, also as a mood stabilizer in patients with bipolar affective disorder and also in other psychiatric disorders. Although having a well-being effect in above mention conditions valproic acid also cause significant side effects like tremor, weight gain, hair loss, and gastrointestinal disturbances, heartburn, liver dysfunction, and thrombocytopenia etc. Hair loss is the well-known side effect of valproic acid. Hair loss induced by valproate (an example of telogen effluvium) is diffused, non-scarring and dose dependent. But recent studies also have shown that this valproic acid can also show paradoxical phenomenon when it is administered topically i.e. “valproic acid-induced hair growth”. Here we are putting these both psychopharmacological aspects of the valproate together with emphasis on newly known paradoxical phenomena that can be utilized as a treatment option for valproate-induced alopecia.

Highlights:

A paradoxical phenomenon of hair growth by valproic acid is identified in studies.

Valproic causes alopecia.

Valproic acid also can cause hair growth.

Keywords: Valproic acid, alopecia, hair growth.

Introduction: Valproic acid is a well-known treatment for various types of neurological seizure-like absence, generalized tonic-clonic (GTC), myoclonic and atonic types, and also in mood disorders (Davis et al., 2000) (Munshi et al., 2010). The clinical utility of this drug may be compromised by its adverse drug reaction (ADR) such as tremor, weight gain, hair loss, and

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