

1-134 Aricept and Behaviour

TIPS Question:

In dealing with a person with Alzheimer Disease with angry, aggressive behaviour, the healthcare team found it beneficial to take the resident off her Aricept, allowing her dementia to progress. The behaviours improved remarkably. Have there been many other cases of a similar nature or is this usually not a clinical practice?

Response:

Yes – other case studies have been reported. What we don't know is when someone is taken off the medication has it been:

1. due to the drug
2. due to a drug interaction
3. a unique emergent vulnerability to the drug i.e. now ill and sensitive to the drug
4. or a combination of these factors

Having said this, we interestingly are seeing some people agitated or behaviourally disturbed when Aricept is given and some who are improving considerably in their behaviour when put on the drug even in late stages of dementia

Clearly this speaks to treating each person individually and always considering the use of psychotropics as a “drug trial”

Please note: TIPS information should be used similar to the way you would use information from a text book! TIPS is not intended to serve as an individual consultation service! P.I.E.C.E.S. participants should use this information in context and always work closely with the family physician involved in the care of the resident or client and with other Partners In Care to find solutions to individual resident/client issues.