

Abstract

Clozapine is a second Generation (atypical) antipsychotic which is useful in resistant schizophrenia. It has been associated with myocarditis and cardiomyopathy, and with high mortality up to 18%. Although cardiac side effects are well documented, there is lack of knowledge and emphasis on this critical side effect. There are no reported cases about cardiomyopathy associated with clozapine in Sri Lankan literature. We report a 30-year-old male who was started on clozapine for two months due to resistant schizophrenia admitted with severe shortness of breath. He was found to have dilated cardiomyopathy with severe left ventricular dysfunction. His cardiac status improved after stopping clozapine and with the anti-failure treatment. This could be an eye opener for all the doctors who manage schizophrenia and other psychiatric disorders with clozapine. They should have high degree of suspicion about shortness of breath in a patient with clozapine and should have a low threshold to refer for echocardiography.