



## Control of crack-cocaine addiction with Artane (Trihexyphenidyl): a case report

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### INTRODUCTION & AIM

Artane (Trihexyphenidyl) is an anti-cholinergic drug used in the symptomatic therapy of Parkinson's disease. The misuse of Artane and its negative effects have been described in scientific literature. The aim of this case report is to present the case of a patient whose crack-cocaine addiction has been stabilized for more than 1 year by medical prescription of Artane.

### MATERIAL & METHODS

The patient is a 40-year-old male with a history of crack-cocaine addiction that started in his late twenties. He sought initial treatment for crack-cocaine in November 2019 and was started with 1800 mg of N-Acetyl Cysteine (NAC) daily, followed by Topiramate up to 100mg daily in spite of which he reported strong cravings and was AWOL for 1 year. He consulted again in October 2020, reporting the inefficacy of Topiramate on his cravings, and admitting to sniff NAC in the search of a 'high'. After numerous anti-anxiety drugs proved inefficient, Artane was introduced in December 2020 at 5mg x 2 daily, and was rapidly efficient against his cravings. He was stabilized at a daily prescription of 3 x 5 mg.

### RESULTS

Following the initial prescription of Artane in December 2020, the patient claimed to have been free from crack-cocaine use for a period of 3-4 months. He started using again in 2021 due to the refusal of Artane prescription from his GP. In November 2021, the patient consulted again and asked immediately to be put on Artane 5mg x 3 pills daily. He claims that the treatment allows him to be free from crack-cocaine cravings, to be free from anxiety and to live a partly normal family and social life. Neither NAC nor Topiramate were introduced. The patient is currently not using.

### DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

Artane misuse and its adverse effects are widely described in scientific literature. We report a case where a crack-cocaine patient has been free from use by the medical prescription of 15mg of Artane daily. This situation is unprecedented and we seek the insight of the scientific community in understanding this case and doing research.

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