

VIDEO Hemiballism due to sildenafil use

Itxaso Martí, MD, and J.F. Martí Massó, MD, PhD, San Sebastián, Spain

Two patients have had intracerebral hemorrhage as a side effect of sildenafil; we present the third, who experienced hemiballism.^{1,2}

A 62-year-old man with hypertension was admitted with sudden brisk movements of the left limbs. He recently had taken 50 mg of sildenafil and had sexual intercourse with his wife.

The neurologic examination revealed hemiballism of his left limbs (see video clip on the *Neurology* Web site). The admission blood pressure was 160/85 mm Hg. CT imaging revealed a small hemorrhage in the right subthalamic-thalamic region (figure). The patient was treated with tetrabenazine, 200 mg/day, for <1 month; abnormal movement decreased progressively (see video clip on the *Neurology* Web site).

In this patient there was a clear relationship between sildenafil and the hemorrhage with secondary hemiballism. The increase of blood flow in the intracerebral vessels associated with sexual intercourse facilitated the hemorrhage in a patient with other hemorrhagic risk factors.

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2. Buxton N, Fannery T, Wild D. Sildenafil (Viagra) -induced spontaneous intracerebral haemorrhage. *Br J Neurosurg* 2001;15:347-349.

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Address correspondence and reprint requests to Dr. J.F. Martí Massó, Paseo Dr. Beguiristain s/n, 20014 San Sebastián, Spain; e-mail: jfmarti@chdo.osakidetza.net



Figure. CT scan: small hemorrhage in the subthalamic area.

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