

Category III Intractable Prostatitis Treated with Serotonin - selective reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) Antidepressants : a report of eight cases

Takashi Notomi, Yuichi Nakashima, Shunzo Tamaru, Yosuke Koga, Yuichi Tsunoda, Shinichiro Irie, and Masatoshi Tanaka

5

Fukuoka University, Japan

Takashi Notomi

The prevalence of prostatitis is very high in urological clinics. To enable progress in research, the National Institutes of Health presented a new classification for prostatitis in 1999. Only five to ten percent of prostatitis cases are caused by bacterial infection according to several epidemiological investigations. The cause of the disorder is unclear in most cases of category III prostatitis, and so it is occasionally difficult to treat such cases with conventional treatment. Recently, the efficacy of serotonin selective reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) antidepressants against chronic pain has been studied in various fields. Several reports have indicated that SSRI antidepressants are effective for the treatment of chronic pain and this effect is independent of their antidepressant action. We herein present eight cases of category III intractable prostatitis, which had been resistant to conventional therapy, but which were effectively treated with SSRIs. These cases suggest that SSRI may be an alternative drug for this disease, however, further studies need to be performed with more subjects.