

The Effectiveness of High-Frequency Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation in Persistent Somatic Symptoms Disorder: A Case Report Study

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Abstract : Background: Somatic symptoms disorders are usually comorbid with depressive disorders despite the fact that there is little evidence for effective treatment for it. Repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) has been approved by the FDA for mildly resistant depression. From this point, we hypothesized that rTMS delivered over the prefrontal cortex (PFC) may be useful in somatic symptoms disorder. Therefore, in our case report, we want to shed light on the potential effectiveness of rTMS in somatic symptoms disorder. Case Report: A 65-year-old Omani female with multiple medical comorbidities on multiple medications. She presented complaining of multiple somatic complaints in the last 2 years after visiting multiple clinics and underwent several specialists' examinations, investigations and procedures for somatic treatments; all of them were normal. Then patient was seen by a different psychiatric clinic; multiple anti-depressant and adjuvant anti-psychotic medications were tried, patient still did not improve. The patient was admitted to the hospital for observation and management. Initially, she was preoccupied with her somatic complaint and kept on Fluoxetine and Olanzapine along with that, topiramate was added, but still with minimal improvement. Then rTMS was added to her management plan following Intermittent theta burst (iTBS) rTMS protocol. After completing all sessions of rTMS, the patient was recovering from all her symptoms, and no complaints were reported from her. Conclusion: Our case highlights the importance of investigating more thoroughly in rTMS as a treatment option for Persistent Somatic symptoms Disorder.

Keywords : rTMS, somatic symptoms disorder, resistive cases, TMS

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