

# **USE OF GABAPENTINE IN SOMATIC BURNING SENSATION IN ANXIO DEPRESSED POST MANOPAUSAL WOMEN**

MUHAMMAD HARIS BURKI  
HAROON RASHID  
MIRAT GUL

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Gabapentine has broad spectrum of usage. It has been tried in epilepsies, neuropathies, chronic pains, migraine prophylaxis movement disorders, muscular spasm, sleep disorder and anxiety. It has been used in diabetic neuropathies and nondiabetic neuropathies. For treatment of prophylaxis of migraine. For treatment of fibromyalgia, muscular spasm and pain associated with spinal cord injury and priapism. It has used for treatment of essential tremor, restless leg syndrome and nystagmus. Mix anxiety depression is highly prevalent among post menopausal ladies. Postmenopausal symptoms include mood swings, irritability, lack of concentration, change of sleep and appetite pattern, diminished vaginal secretion, and hot flushes. Feelings of warmth, profuse perspiration, and itching of skin may be part of hot flushes. Many features of post menopausal syndrome cannot be separated from typical mix anxiety and depression. SSRI,s are used for both PMS and mix anxiety depression syndrome.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

To evaluate efficacy of gabapentine in the symptom of burning sensation in the body in anxio depressed postmenopausal women.

## **METHOD:**

Ten postmenopausal anxio depressed patients having severe complaint of burning sensation in the body treated with standard regime of SSRI,s and benzodiazepines. Symptoms of anxiety and depression responded well. However, burning sensation remained unabated. These patients were started 100mg gabapentine tid which was later increased to 300mg tid.

## **RESULTS :**

There was substantial reduction in feeling of burning sensation in all the patients. Besides concomitant reduction in anxiety, muscular pains and aches and improvement in sleep.

## **DISCUSSION:**

Gabapentine has gabanergic and antiglutamergic properties. It interacts with 2 subunits of voltage dependent calcium channels. Central analgesic effect of gabapentine is mediated both by supraspinal and spinal action involving descending nonadrenergic system. Intra cerebroventricular administration decrease thermal mechanical hypersensitivity. This supraspinal effect is independent of spinal cholinergic –NO system. Pretreatment with yohimbine abolishes beneficial effects. In hot flushes action on noradrenergic system and property of reducing thermal hypersensitivity of gabapentine might have been helpful. Effect on the alpha 2 receptors is probably gabapentine effect on autonomic nervous system involved in hot flushes. Gabapentine has not very good effect in treatment of hot flushes in breast cancer treatment. Instead SSRI,s has given better

results .In this study gabapentine was added adjunct to SSRI,s and possibilly in anxio depressed patient its sedative ,anti anxiety, and muscle relaxant properties might have played some role. Similar study could done on male patients with andropause.