1-112 Lewy Body and Sinemet

TIPS Question:

When would Parkinson's medications such as sinemet be used to address either medication induced parkinsonism or the parkinsons features seen in Lewy Body Dementia?

Response:

Sinemet is an antiparkinsonian agent used primarily for Parkinson's disease.

Drug induced Parkinson's syndrome, e.g. in response to dopamine blocking agents such as Haldol, are not treated with Sinemet. Reducing the dose of antipsychotic or switching to another antipsychotic agent would be the ideal way of treating those Parkinsonian features.

Lewy Body Dementia(LBD) is a diagnosis that is gaining growing interest. It is characterized by dementia with fluctuating course, spontaneous extrapyramidal features and visual hallucinations. Use of Sinemet in this illness is met with good response early on in the disease. However after onset of dementia the response is poor and psychiatric adverse effects are common including visual hallucinations. It is therefore not recommended for those patients with well established LBD.

Reference: Parkinsonian dementia: Diagnosis, differentiation and principles of treatment. Geriatrics& Aging, May 2002 Vol. 5, No. 4

Please note: *TIPS information should be used similar to the way you would use information from a text book! TIPS is not intended to serve as an individual consultation service! P.I.E.C.E.S. participants should use this information in context and always work closely with the family physician involved in the care of the resident or client and with other Partners In Care to find solutions to individual resident/client issues.*