

Tuesday, November 23rd, 2016

*To whom it may concern*

*Dear colleagues*

*I am writing to support the clinical investigation and treatment performed by Dr. Roger Coletti about the use of phonoxybenzamine for the treatment of muscle spasms. The treatment proposed by Dr. Coletti is based on ample experimental evidence of the effects of this medication as a neuromuscular blocker. Dr. Coletti´s work provides clinical (pain and spasms reduction) and electrophysiological (reduction of the electrical activity of the muscle) evidences supporting the proposal that intramuscular injection of phenoxybenzamine can be used as a neuromuscular blocker. Dr. Coletti describes that the common negative side effects described for this drug (such as blood pressure hypotension and ejaculatory disorders) disappeared in just a couple of days (however the muscle relaxation persists for a much longer time) so these does not represent a significant disadvantage of this drug.*

*Dr. Coletti has conducted a questionnaire to assess the effects of his treatment on patients with primary muscular pain. The results show that this medication is effective in reducing the pain experience, probably by blocking some of its basic trigger mechanisms at the level of the muscle and the spinal muscle reflexes involved in this type of regional pain. These results have been presented at international meetings. Of course, in order to be completely certain about the positive effects of this medication, a formal randomized clinical trial should be desirable. Given the absence of such study, I believe the existent evidences support the off label use of this drug as an adjunct muscle relaxant.*

*Further electrophysiological studies to quantify the features of the neuromuscular block induced by phenoxybenzamine, could also lead to expand the use of the drug in the treatment of other forms of increased muscle activity such as dystonias, fasciculations, neuropathic pain, spasticity and neurogenic muscle cramps. If proven effective, phenoxybenzamine could be possibly used in selected patients as a surrogate of botox. Based on these considerations, we are considering to evaluate in our laboratory in Havana, the properties of this medication as a neuromuscular blocker. Once clear some local formalities, we might be interested in conducting a formal clinical trial of the drug in our country.*

*Sincerely*

**

*Dr. Joel V. Gutiérrez, MD, PhD*

*Head Clinical Neurophysiology Unit.*

*Cuban Institute of Neurology and Neurosurgery*

*Senior Professor, Havana Medical University*