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On the Pharmacotherapy of Sleep Bruxism: Placebo-Controlled Polysomnographic and Psychometric Studies with Clonazepam

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Key Words

Sleep bruxism · Pharmacotherapy · Clonazepam · Polysomnography · Awakening quality · Thymopsyche · Noopsyche · Periodic limb movements · Respiratory variables · Arousals

Abstract

Objectives: Sleep bruxism (SB) is a parasomnia defined as a stereotyped movement disorder characterized by grinding or clenching of the teeth during sleep. Pathophysiologically, SB is the result of biological and psychosocial influences. Treatment comprises behavioral, orthodontic and pharmacological interventions. While benzodiazepines and muscle relaxants have been reported by clinicians to reduce bruxism-related motor activity, placebo-controlled studies are lacking. Thus, the aim of the present study was to investigate the acute effects of clonazepam (Rivotril[®]) as compared with placebo, utilizing polysomnography and psychometry. *Method:* Ten drugfree outpatients (6 females, 4 males), aged 46.5 ± 13.1 years, suffering from SB (ICD-10: F45.8; ICSD: 306.8) and having been treated by bite splints were included in the trial. Comorbidity was high: 7 patients presented nonorganic insomnia related to adjustment or anxiety disorders (5 patients) or depression (2 patients); all patients had a concomitant movement disorder (6 restless legs syndrome, 4 periodic leg movement disorder). After one ad-

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Accessible online at: www.karger.com/nps aptation night, patients received placebo and 1 mg clonazepam 1/2 hour before lights out in a single-blind, nonrandomized study design. Objective sleep quality was determined by polysomnography, subjective sleep and awakening quality by rating scales, objective awakening quality by psychometric tests. Clinical evaluation was based on the Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index (PSQI), the Zung Depression (SDS) and Anxiety (SAS) Scales, the Quality of Life Index, the Epworth Sleepiness Scale and the International Restless Legs Syndrome Study Group (IRLSSG) Scale. Results: On admission, SB patients exhibited deteriorated PSQI, SAS, SDS and IRLSSG measures. As compared with placebo, 1 mg clonazepam significantly improved the mean bruxism index from 9.3 to 6.3/h of sleep. Furthermore, it significantly improved the total sleep period, total sleep time, sleep efficiency, sleep latency and time awake during the total sleep period, and increased stage 2 sleep and movement time. Periodic leg movements decreased significantly, while the apnea index and apnea-hypopnea index increased marginally, but remained within normal limits. Subjective sleep quality improved as well, while in mood, performance and psychophysiology no changes were observed. Conclusion: Acute clonazepam therapy significantly improved not only the bruxism index but also objective and subjective sleep quality, with unchanged mood, performance and psychophysiological measures upon awakening, suggesting good tolerability of the drug.

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Introduction

According to the International Classification of Sleep Disorders (ICSD), sleep bruxism (SB) is a parasomnia (i.e. an undesirable physical phenomenon occurring during sleep) characterized by a stereotyped movement disorder consisting of grinding or clenching of the teeth during sleep [1]. In the International Classification of Diseases, 10th revision (ICD-10), by the WHO [2], bruxism is listed in chapter F 'Mental and Behavioral Disorders' under F45.8 'Other Somatoform Disorders'. This suggests that in the pathogenesis of SB, stress and psychosocial variables play a role, which has indeed been postulated by a number of authors [3-8], although another study found no relationship between stress in the waking state and electromyogram (EMG) changes in sleep [9]. There is, however, a consensus that SB patients have an anxious personality and are focused on successful performance [4, 6-8, 10-12]. Other exogenous and peripheral pathogenetic factors include environmental influences. occlusion, some kinds of medication (L-dopa, neuroleptics, amphetamines, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors) and substance abuse (e.g. cocaine, alcohol, smoking) [13, 14]. Endogenous factors include personality (e.g. anxious), genetic factors, neurochemicals (e.g. dopamine, serotonin), neurological disorders (e.g. Parkinson's disease, Meigs syndrome, oral tardive dyskinesia, REM behavior disorder, olivopontocerebellar atrophy and cerebellar hemorrhage), psychiatric disorders (e.g. anxiety, adjustment and affective disorder, dementia, mental retardation, tics) and sleep disorders [e.g. periodic leg movements in sleep (PLMS), apnea, REM behavior disorder]. Macaluso et al. [15] and Kato et al. [16] suggested that SB is a sequel of microarousals during sleep (sudden brain and cardiac activation). If REM bruxism is associated with neuropsychiatric disorders or substance use, it is referred to as secondary bruxism [14].

The prevalence of sleep bruxism is approximately 8% [17–20]. That of wake bruxism, a condition usually characterized by jaw clenching and only rarely by tooth gnashing and/or grinding, is about 20%. With increasing age, SB decreases, with a prevalence rate of 14% in children, 8% in adults and 3% in patients over 60 years of age [19, 21].

The sequelae of SB include tooth destruction (fig. 1), temporo-mandibular dysfunction (e.g. jaw pain or movement limitation), rarely cephalgia, and last but not least sleep disturbances of the bed partner due to the grinding sounds [14, 22].



Fig. 1. Tooth wear as a consequence of SB.

Diagnostic evaluation comprises clinical diagnosis, ambulatory monitoring, sleep laboratory investigations and others [14]. The clinical approach is based on the patient's history (e.g. reports of tooth grinding, jaw muscle tightness, discomfort, or pain) and orofacial examination. According to Johansson et al. [23], tooth enamel or crown wear with the presence of facets (shiny spots) may be scored, distinguishing three classes: class I – tooth enamel or crown wear with the presence of facets (polishlike) or fillings with shiny spots; class II – loss of enamel with dentine exposure and slight reduction of crown height or chipped incisal ridge or cuspids; class III – extensive dentine wear (>2 mm²) with loss of crown height (>50%) and flattening of cusps (fig. 1).

Ambulatory monitoring includes audio/video home recordings to estimate sound frequency and jaw displacement as well as ambulatory EMG recordings (e.g. masseteric EMG monitoring during sleep) [14]. Lately, also full ambulatory multichannel recorders have been developed. However, only full polysomnography in the sleep laboratory makes it possible to recognize SB motor activity that may otherwise be confounded with jaw activity during sleep such as swallowing, coughing, sleep talking, sighing, grunting, yawning, smiling or myoclonus [14, 24, 25].

Criteria suggested for the diagnosis of SB based on sleep laboratory recordings [24] are as follows: mean EMG potentials are larger than 20% of the maximum voluntary clench while awake. SB episode types can be

Sleep Bruxism: Sleep Laboratory Studies with Clonazepam

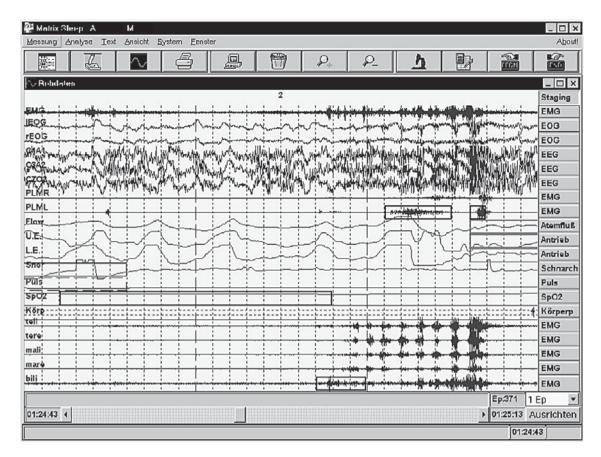


Fig. 2. Example of a 30-second polysomnogram demonstrating one rhythmical SB episode. The 20 polygraphic traces demonstrate from top to bottom: submental electromyogram (EMG), left and right electrooculogram (EOG), right (C4) and left (C3) central and vertex (CZ) EEG, right and left PLM recordings from the respective anterior tibial muscle, airflow and upper and lower respiratory efforts, snoring, pulse rate, oxygen saturation (Sp O₂) and body po-

subdivided into phasic (rhythmical), tonic (sustained) and mixed ones. Phasic episodes are characterized by more than 3 EMG bursts, separated by 2 interburst pauses, in the masseter or temporalis muscle lasting >0.25 s and <2.0 s (fig. 2). In tonic episodes, there is 1 EMG burst lasting >2 s. Mixed episodes have both phasic and tonic components. The minimum acquisition frequency is 128 Hz, the diagnostic cutoff criteria for research purposes are as follows: sensitivity >72%; specificity >94%, bruxism episodes per hour >4, bruxism bursts per hour >25, minimum episodes with grinding 1 per sleep period.

Over 88% of SB episodes are phasic or mixed. Sixty to eighty percent of jaw muscle activity in SB occurs during light sleep, at a mean frequency of 5.4–5.8 episodes per hour of sleep [15, 24, 26].

sition, as well as left and right temporalis and masseter muscles and finally left biventer muscle. Note the 10 phasic rhythmical bursts demonstrating a co-contraction between the closer (teli = left temporalis, tere = right temporalis, mali = left masseter, mare = right masseter muscle) and the submental opener muscles (EMG and bi = biventer muscle). Note further concomitant PLMs.

It is of interest that rhythmic masticatory muscle activity during sleep also occurs in about 60% of normal subjects, though with a frequency of 1.8 episodes per hour of sleep [26, 27]. Lavigne et al. [26], however, pointed out that in SB the frequency of rhythmic masticatory muscle activity is three times higher than in normal subjects, the muscle contractions are of a higher amplitude and tooth grinding sounds are present.

Treatment consists of psychological, somatic and pharmacological strategies, which are also known to be the three pillars in the therapy of sleep disorders in general [28]. Psychological interventions include explaining SB to the patient and providing sleep hygiene instructions (e.g. the 10 commandments for good sleep [28]). No persistent effects have been obtained with relaxation strategies [3, 29, 30], though some patients report an increase

Patient No.	Lab No.	Initials	Sex	Age years	Weight kg	Bruxism	Movement disorder	Other diagnoses
1	573	M.S.	F	62	78	F45.8	G25.8	
2	647	G.H.	F	55	72	F45.8	G25.8	F51.0, F33.10, F43.22, F51.5
3	661	K.K.	F	40	52	F45.8	G25.8	F51.0, F43.22, F51.5
4	725	H.V.	F	41	83	F45.8	G 25.8	F51.0, F43.22, F51.5, F34.0, F40.01
5	795	P.N.	М	28	75	F45.8	G25.8	F51.0, F41.1, R06.5
6	812	T.P.	Μ	34	80	F45.8	G25.3	F51.0, F41.1
7	846	H.S.	F	64	86	F45.8	G25.3	F51.0, F31.8
8	857	M.A.	F	49	82	F45.8	G25.8	R06.5
9	862	A.D.	Μ	59	78	F45.8	G25.3	F51.0, F43.2
10	668	S.S.	М	33	59	F45.8	G25.3	F51.0, F43.21

Table 1. Demographic data and ICD-10 diagnoses in 10 sleep bruxers

in well-being. Clarke and Reynolds [31] conducted a pilot study on hypnotherapy in bruxism and reported a reduction of both grinding frequency and EMG activity. Also, biofeedback has been used in the context of SB [32, 33].

Orodental treatment, such as mouth guards or stabilization bite splints, may protect orofacial structures from damage, but studies concerning the effect of splints on SB EMG-related levels show equivocal results. Pierce and Gale [29] and Solberg et al. [34] described an improvement, Clark et al. [35] and Okeson [36] found an increase in muscle activity in 20% of hard splint users and 50% of soft splint users, while others reported no change [37, 38]. Dao and Lavigne [39] therefore regarded splints as 'crutches' or 'bumpers' preventing tissue damage rather than showing an effect on SB, which may be the reason for low compliance (fewer than 20% of patients use their splints after 1 year). Tooth equilibration for reduction of occlusal interference was suggested by Yustin et al. [40] and Ramfjord and Mich [41], but its efficacy is controversial [42-44].

Comparing an occlusal splint with a palatal control device, Dube et al. [45] found a significant reduction (41%) in the number of SB episodes per hour with both devices. In a case report study during continuous positive airway pressure titration in a patient with obstructive sleep apnea, Oksenberg and Arons [46] reported an elimination of most breathing abnormalities and a complete eradication of the tooth grinding events.

Pharmacotherapy of SB is also controversial as reports on dopaminergic, serotoninergic and adrenergic drugs describe a suppression or exacerbation of bruxism activity in humans and animals [47]. More controlled research is needed in this field. As in a preceding pilot trial involving the dopamine agonist ropinirole, the benzodiazepine clonazepam and GABA hydroxybutyrate, clonazepam had shown the most promising results [48], the present placebo-controlled sleep laboratory study was carried out to investigate the acute effect of clonazepam on SB as well as on objective and subjective sleep and awakening quality of bruxers.

Methods

Patients

Ten drug-free patients (6 females, 4 males), aged 46.5 \pm 13.1 years, suffering from SB (ICD-10: F45.8) participated in the study. They all fulfilled the inclusion criteria of SB according to the ICSD (306.8): (a) the patient has had a complaint of tooth grinding or tooth clenching; (b) one or more of the following occurred: (1) abnormal wear of teeth (all patients had already received splints by their dentists), (2) sounds associated with bruxism, (3) jaw muscle discomfort; (c) polysomnography demonstrates both (1) jaw muscle activity during sleep, and (2) absence of associated epileptic activity.

Comorbidity was high (table 1). All bruxers were suffering from movement disorders; 6 from restless legs syndrome (RLS) and 4 from PLMS. Moreover, 7 had nonorganic insomnia, which in 2 cases was related to affective disorders, and in 5 to neurotic, stressrelated and somatoform disorders. The study was performed in accordance with the rules and regulations for the conduct of clinical trials stated in the Declaration of Helsinki, as revised by the World Medical Assembly in Somerset West. Informed consent was obtained.

Study Design

In the single-blind, placebo-controlled, nonrandomized, crossover study, patients were investigated for three consecutive nights:

- (1) Predrug night
- (2) Placebo night
- (3) Clonazepam 1 mg night.

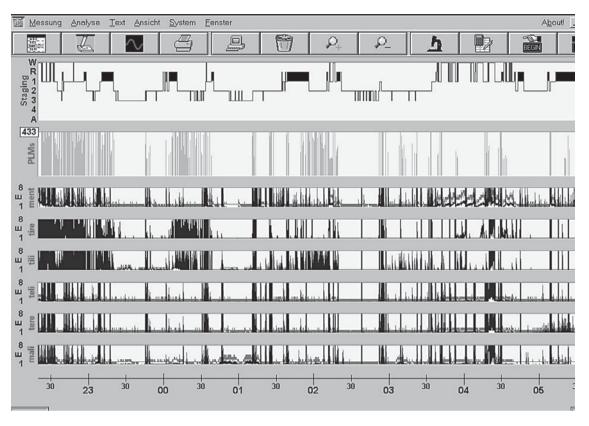


Fig. 3. Example of a computer printout of a female sleep bruxer. Below the sleep profile, the following measures are shown over time in descending order: PLMs, submental EMG, right and left anterior tibial muscle activity (tire, tili), left and right temporalis muscle activity (teli, tere) and left masseter muscle activity (mali). Note the partly independent, partly synchronous activities.

At the time of admission, the patients were required to have been free of psychopharmacological treatment for 5 times the halflife of the psychopharmacological agent given last.

The concomitant use of sedatives, propranolol, α -methyldopa, antidepressants, tranquilizers, antihistamines, amphetamine-containing compounds, narcotic analgesics, anticholinergics or alcohol was prohibited during the study. Aspirin or acetaminophen could be taken, but the patients were instructed to refrain from doing so after 5.00 p.m. during the study.

In addition, meals, coffee, tea, Coca Cola or other caffeine-containing beverages were to be avoided within 8 h of retiring. No other medication was allowed after the study treatment had been taken at bedtime. The patients were required not to nap during the day or evening for the duration of the study.

Measures

Clinical Evaluation

The following clinical rating scales were completed on admission:

Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index [49], Zung Self-Rating Scale for Depression (SDS) [50], Zung Self-Rating Scale for Anxiety (SAS) [51], Epworth Sleepiness Scale [52], International Restless Legs Syndrome Study Group Rating Scale (IRLSSG) [53], and Quality of Life Index according to Mezzich and Cohen [see ref. 54–56]. Evaluation of Objective Sleep Quality

Polysomnographic all-night recordings were obtained between approximately 10.30 p.m. (lights out) and 6.00 a.m. (buzzer or alarm clock). Thus, time in bed (TIB) was fixed to 7.5 h. Data were recorded by means of a 16-channel polygraph (Jaeger Sleep Lab 1000P) including 3 EEG channels (C4-A1, CZ-O2 and C3-A2) according to the 10/20 system, 2 electrooculogram channels (left/ right), submental EMG and tibialis anterior EMG from both legs, nasal and oral airflow, movement of the chest and abdomen, snoring, transcutaneous oxygen saturation and pulse rate (Criticare Pulse Oxymeter 504) (fig. 2).

For evaluation of SB, the jaw masseter, temporalis and biventer muscles were recorded, analyzed according to the criteria of Lavigne et al. [24] and plotted together with the sleep profile and PLM measures over the 7.5 h TIB (fig. 3).

Respiratory events such as apneas (more than 10 s without nasal or oral flow and cessation or cancellation of movements of chest and abdomen), hypopneas (more than 50% reduction in the respiratory amplitude for at least 10 s), snoring events, desaturation events (reduction of the start oxygen saturation value by 4%), minimum O₂ values and average low oxygen saturation were determined automatically by means of SleepLab 1000 P software.

PLM parameters were scored visually based on the recommendation of the Sleep Disorders Atlas Task Force of the American Sleep Disorders Association [57] with the following criteria: (1) an EMG burst length between 0.5 and 5.0 s; (2) a movement amplitude >25% of a calibration movement; (3) an interval of 5–90 s between movements; (4) a minimum number of 4 consecutive movements required for a group of movements to be scored as PLM. PLM indices were subdivided into PLM/h of TIB, PLM/h of total sleep time (TST), PLM arousals/h of sleep, PLM/h of REM, PLM/h of non-REM, and PLM/h of time awake.

Arousals were subjected to a computer-assisted classification according to the following rules: minimum frequency change required 2.5 Hz; minimum frequency level 6 Hz; required amplitude increase 30%; minimal duration 3 s; maximal duration 15 s; EMG ratio for REM 2.0. Subsequently, arousals were visually scored on the basis of the EEG arousal scoring rules published by the Sleep Disorders Atlas Task Force of the American Sleep Disorders Association [58].

For sleep staging, 30-second epochs were visually scored according to the criteria of Rechtschaffen and Kales [59].

TST is the amount of actual sleep time in the total sleep period (TSP). TSP is the period of time measured from sleep onset until the final awakening. In addition to TST, TSP includes time awake and movement time. The number of awakenings refers to arousals to wakefulness during the TSP. The sleep efficiency index is the proportion of sleep in the recorded period, and it is calculated by dividing TST by the TIB, multiplied by 100. Sleep stages (S) 1-4 and REM are expressed in minutes and in percentages of the TST. Latency to S1, S2, S3 and S4 defines the period of time measured from lights out to the appearance of S1, S2, S3 and S4, respectively. REM latency is defined as time from the first epoch of S2 (followed by >8 min sleep in the next 10 min) to the first REM period of at least 3 min. Wake before buzzer is the time spent awake from the final awakening until the buzzer. Stage shifts refer to the number of shifts from one stage to another during TIB.

Subjective Sleep and Awakening Quality

After awakening, the patients completed the Self-Rating Scale for Sleep and Awakening Quality [28, 60, 61], including a 100-mm Visual Analog Scale (VAS) for RLS symptomatology. The VAS consisted of a line of 100 mm, on which the patient had to mark his present condition, distinguishing between 'no symptoms at all' (left end) and 'most severe symptoms' (right end).

Thymopsychic variables included subjective well-being in the evening and morning, based on the 'Befindlichkeits-Skala' (emotional well-being and mood scale) by Von Zerssen et al. [62], as well as drive, mood, affectivity and drowsiness in the morning, measured by means of 100-mm VAS.

Objective Awakening Quality (Psychometry)

Morning mental performance tests included the Alphabetical Cancellation Test (Alphabetischer Durchstreichtest) [63] for quantification of attention (total score), concentration (errors in percentage of the total score) and attention variability (difference between extreme scores), the Numerical Memory Test as well as the Fine Motor Activity Test (right and left hand) [63] for the evaluation of changes in psychomotor activity and drive. Reaction time, reaction time variability (ms) and errors of omission and commission were determined by the Viennese computer-assisted reaction time apparatus.

Psychophysiological Investigations

These included muscular strength of the right and left hand as well as of the right and left index finger and thumb, evaluated by means of a vigorimeter (kp/cm^2) [64]. Evening and morning pulse rates as well as systolic and diastolic blood pressures were also recorded.

Biometric Planning and Statistics

The sample size was based on the meta-analysis study on sleep in psychiatric disorders by Benca et al. [65] as well as on our previous papers on neuropsychiatric disorders [66–73].

Statistical analysis was based on the concept of descriptive data analysis, as proposed by Abt [74] and Ferber et al. [75] for controlled clinical trials, which allows one confirmatory statement on a preselected variable based on previous findings [70].

The preselected null hypothesis was that there were no differences between clonazepam 1 mg and placebo in terms of the primary target variable – the bruxism index (episodes/h of sleep) (maximum error probability $\alpha = 0.05$).

Normal distribution was tested by means of the 1-sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test. If in no cases the null hypothesis of normal distribution was rejected at $\alpha = 0.10$, a two-way ANOVA was used within the group. In the case of a violation of the assumption of normal distribution, a Wilcoxon test was used for within-group comparisons.

All other effects were tested descriptively. The null hypotheses were: there are no differences between clonazepam and placebo nights (error probability = 0.05).

Results

Description of the Patients

Clinical evaluation of the patients on admission demonstrated an increased Pittsburgh Sleep Quality Index of 10.8 ± 4.0 as compared with normals (2.7 \pm 1.7), which reflects a disorder of sleep initiation and maintenance in the last 4 weeks. The SDS showed a mean value of 40.6 \pm 7.9, suggesting a slight depressive syndrome as compared with normals (26 \pm 4); the SAS yielded a mean value of 35.5 ± 8.0 , indicating a slight anxiety syndrome as compared with normals (26 ± 3.5). The Epworth Sleepiness Scale demonstrated a mean value of 9.9 \pm 7.0, suggesting only marginally increased daytime sleepiness as compared with controls (5.9 \pm 2.2). The mean value of the IRLSSG rating scale was 6.6 \pm 7.6, reflecting a slight increase in RLS symptomatology as compared with normals (0). Finally, the Quality of Life Index according to Mezzich and Cohen [see ref. 54-56] was slightly deteriorated with 7.5 \pm 10.9 as compared with normative data of 8.5 \pm 0.7.

Objective Sleep Quality – Sleep Initiation and Maintenance

SB patients showed a first-night effect in regard to latency to S4 and the number of nocturnal awakenings as

Variables	А	Р	С	Internight differences (Wilcoxon test)
Latency to S1, min \downarrow	39.2 ± 26.5	15.7 ± 11.9	7.2 ± 5.9	C:P*
Latency to S2, min \downarrow	73.2 ± 87.3	20.7 ± 12.9	11.4 ± 6.4	C:P*
Latency to S3, min \downarrow	118.8 ± 128.4	40.4 ± 19.1	37.8 ± 19.0	
Latency to S4, min \downarrow	235.8 ± 184.4	51.3 ± 19.6	67.8 ± 46.4	A:P*
Latency to REM, min \downarrow	115.8 ± 58.5	101.1 ± 35.3	104.1 ± 62.9	
Wake within TSP, min \downarrow	68.7 ± 39.1	58.0 ± 48.7	23.0 ± 26.6	C:P*
Wake before buzzer, min↓	5.5 ± 13.9	3.9 ± 6.8	0.2 ± 0.6	
Awakenings, n↓	20.3 ± 5.2	14.8 ± 4.7	10.7 ± 6.0	A:P*
TSP, min ↑	429.3 ± 28.6	430.5 ± 14.0	445.1 ± 10.0	C:P*
TST, min ↑	359.5 ± 54.8	371.9 ± 49.2	420.7 ± 26.7	C:P*
Sleep efficiency, % ↑	80.0 ± 12.1	82.6 ± 11.1	93.0 ± 5.7	C:P*

Table 2. Acute effects of 1 mg clonazepam on sleep initiation and maintenance in sleep bruxers (n = 10) as compared with placebo

A = Predrug night; P = placebo night; C = clonazepam 1 mg night; $\uparrow \downarrow$ = direction of improvement. * p < 0.05.

Table 3. Acute effects of 1 mg clonazepam on sleep architecture in sleep bruxers (n = 10) as compared with placebo

Variables		А	Р	С	Internight differences (Wilcoxon test)
S1	%	10.6 ± 4.8	11.0 ± 5.5	10.2 ± 4.9	
	min	38.8 ± 20.2	41.4 ± 23.1	42.7 ± 20.6	
S2	%	47.1 ± 6.4	50.5 ± 6.2	52.6 ± 6.2	C:P**
	min	169.4 ± 36.5	188.1 ± 36.1	221.8 ± 33.9	A:P*
S3	%	13.1 ± 5.2	9.5 ± 3.9	9.5 ± 2.2	
	min	46.6 ± 18.8	34.3 ± 12.4	40.2 ± 9.9	
S4	%	9.2 ± 5.3	10.4 ± 5.2	9.0 ± 4.5	
	min	32.0 ± 15.3	37.1 ± 15.5	38.1 ± 18.5	
S3 + S4	%	22.3 ± 5.0	19.9 ± 7.0	18.6 ± 3.6	
	min	78.5 ± 13.5	71.3 ± 19.1	78.3 ± 16.5	
REM	%	20.0 ± 6.1	18.7 ± 5.9	18.7 ± 6.4	
	min	72.9 ± 25.7	71.1 ± 27.4	78.0 ± 25.8	
Movement time, min		1.1 ± 1.3	0.6 ± 0.9	1.4 ± 1.4	C:P*
REM latency, min		94.1 ± 52.1	80.4 ± 29.8	92.7 ± 60.3	
Stage shifts		122.2 ± 37.7	102.4 ± 18.3	103.1 ± 25.3	

A = Predrug night; P = placebo night; C = clonazepam 1 mg night.

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01.

they demonstrated a longer latency to S4 and more frequent nocturnal awakenings in the first than in the second night (table 2). Acute administration of 1 mg clonazepam shortened latency to S1 and S2, decreased wake within the TSP, and increased the TSP, TST and sleep efficiency (from 83 to 93%) at the level of statistical significance.

Objective Sleep Quality – Sleep Architecture

Concerning S2, an adaptation phenomenon was observed as there was an increase in minutes spent in this stage from the predrug to the placebo night (table 3). Acute administration of 1 mg clonazepam resulted in an increase in the percentage of S2 and movement time.

Variables	Normal range	Р	С	Internight differences (Wilcoxon test)
Bruxism index, n/h of sleep	0-4	9.3 ± 6.5	6.3 ± 3.4	P:C**
Apnea index, n/h of sleep	0-5	0.3 ± 0.6	0.8 ± 1.0	P:C*
Apnea-hypopnea index, n/h of sleep	0-10	0.9 ± 1.0	1.7 ± 1.0	P:C*
Desaturation index, n/h of sleep	0-5	0.6 ± 1.0	1.9 ± 2.0	
Snoring index, n/h of sleep	0-20	13.1 ± 26.1	16.3 ± 17.4	
PLMs, total n/TIB		181.6 ± 140.1	91.1 ± 121.6	P:C**
PLM index, n/h of TST	0-5	13.9 ± 15.0	8.9 ± 5.1	P:C*
PLM index awake, n/h of time awake		67.6 ± 35.9	48.8 ± 40.4	
PLM-Arousal index, n/h of sleep	0-5	2.7 ± 3.2	1.7 ± 3.6	
Arousal index total, n/h of sleep	0-20	26.6 ± 15.6	24.7 ± 16.0	

Table 4. Bruxism index, respiratory variables and PLMs in sleep bruxers (n = 10): Acute effects of 1 mg clonazepam and placebo

P = Placebo night; C = clonazepam 1 mg night. * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01.

Table 5. Acute effects of 1 mg clonazepam on subjective sleep/awakening quality and thymopsychic measures in sleep bruxers (n = 10) as compared with placebo

Variables	А	Р	С	Internight differences (Wilcoxon test)
Sleep quality, score ↓ Awakening quality, score ↓ Somatic complaints, score ↓ SSA total, score ↓ Well-being evening, score ↓ Well-being morning, score ↓ Drive, mm ↓ Mood, mm ↑ Affectivity, mm ↑ Drowsiness, mm ↓	15.2 ± 4.4 14.6 ± 4.7 6.2 ± 1.3 36.0 ± 8.8 21.9 ± 11.9 14.6 ± 10.2 42.5 ± 28.8 72.4 ± 15.8 75.4 ± 15.4 36.9 ± 28.1	$13.9 \pm 2.2 \\ 16.2 \pm 4.9 \\ 6.0 \pm 1.2 \\ 36.1 \pm 6.7 \\ 17.6 \pm 11.0 \\ 17.1 \pm 12.4 \\ 47.9 \pm 30.1 \\ 65.6 \pm 18.8 \\ 67.5 \pm 25.5 \\ 50.4 \pm 28.5 \\ \end{array}$	9.5 ± 4.1 16.7 ± 6.2 6.5 ± 1.8 32.7 ± 10.9 13.8 ± 8.3 16.3 ± 10.7 44.6 ± 31.5 58.1 ± 26.0 71.8 ± 17.2 46.9 ± 27.5	С:Р**

A = Predrug night; P = placebo night; C = clonazepam 1 mg night; SSA = Self-Assessment of Sleep and Awakening Quality Scale; $\downarrow \uparrow$ = direction of improvement. ** p < 0.01.

Objective Sleep Quality – Bruxism Index, Respiratory Variables and PLMs

In accordance with the inclusion criteria, patients demonstrated an increased bruxism index of 9.3 ± 6.5 /h of sleep as compared with the normal rate of 0–4/h of sleep, with the active compound clonazepam 1 mg improving the index significantly to 6.3 ± 3.4 (table 4).

The respiratory indices such as the apnea index, apnea-hypopnea index and desaturation index, as well as the snoring index were within normal limits and did not change significantly under clonazepam 1 mg as compared with placebo (table 4). PLMs during the total TIB, however, improved significantly under clonazepam as compared with placebo (table 4). With 13.9 \pm 15/h, the PLM index was slightly elevated as compared with normative data (0–5/h) and improved significantly under clonazepam 1 mg to 8.9 \pm 5.1/h. The PLM index during time awake decreased as well, but the decrease did not reach the level of statistical significance. The decrease in the arousal index and in the PLM-arousal index was not statistically significant either.

Variables	А	Р	С	Internight differences (Wilcoxon test)
Attention, score ↑	520.8 ± 77.6	460.4 ± 92.9	494.3 ± 94.2	A:P*
Concentration, % errors \downarrow	3.3 ± 1.9	3.1 ± 2.1	3.6 ± 2.4	
Attention variability, score \downarrow	14.6 ± 3.7	15.1 ± 2.8	14.0 ± 4.3	
Numerical memory, n ↑	5.4 ± 1.5	4.4 ± 1.8	3.9 ± 2.0	
Fine motor activity (right) ↑	34.1 ± 8.4	37.2 ± 8.1	37.6 ± 5.6	
Fine motor activity (left) ↑	31.8 ± 11.8	36.4 ± 7.7	34.3 ± 10.0	
Fine motor activity (right + left) \uparrow	63.9 ± 19.5	73.6 ± 13.8	71.9 ± 14.1	A:P*
Reaction time, ms↓	575.3 ± 68.6	602.8 ± 78.2	556.5 ± 65.8	
Reaction time variability, $ms \downarrow$	139.3 ± 40.5	111.6 ± 37.2	111.9 ± 50.2	
Reaction time errors/commission ↓	4.8 ± 4.5	2.2 ± 3.2	2.2 ± 3.7	
Reaction time errors/omission \downarrow	0.3 ± 0.5	0.4 ± 0.7	0.3 ± 0.5	

Table 6. Acute effects of 1 mg clonazepam on noopsychic performance in the morning in sleep bruxers (n = 10) as compared with placebo

A = Predrug night; P = placebo night; C = clonazepam 1 mg night; $\uparrow \downarrow$ = direction of improvement. * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01.

Subjective Sleep/Awakening Quality and Thymopsychic Measures

Subjective sleep quality, as rated by the patients themselves by means of the Self-Assessment of Sleep and Awakening Quality Scale, demonstrated a significant improvement after 1 mg clonazepam as compared with placebo (table 5). There were no significant changes in the other subjective awakening quality and thymopsychic measures, nor were there any first-night effects in these variables in sleep bruxers.

Objective Awakening Quality and Noopsychic Measures

Objective awakening quality variables on attention, concentration, numerical memory, fine motor activity and reaction time performance did not show any significant changes after clonazepam as compared with placebo (table 6). There was a first-night effect regarding fine motor activity measured in both hands, with better performance in the second than in the first night, whereas attention (measured by the Alphabetic Cancellation Test) was higher in the first than in the second night.

Psychophysiological Measures

Psychophysiological measures did not show any firstnight effect in sleep bruxers nor any significant changes after clonazepam as compared to placebo, with the exception of an improved muscular strength of the right finger (table 7).

Discussion

Our clinical investigations demonstrated that SB patients suffer from a disorder of initiating and maintaining sleep, which results in a slight increase in daytime sleepiness and a deterioration of quality of life. The slightly increased depression and anxiety symptomatology may be partly due to comorbidities including affective and anxiety disorders, which, however, in clinical psychiatry settings generally show much higher SAS and SDS scores. The same is true for the IRLSSG score, which is only mildly elevated in SB patients, but nevertheless substantiates the clinically diagnosed movement disorder. Further studies seem necessary to elucidate the relationship between SB and movement disorders. The increased anxiety and depression scores do speak for the decision to place SB in the F4 chapter on 'Neurotic, Stress-Related and Somatoform Disorders'. It is noteworthy that our studies in untreated RLS and periodic leg movement disorder (PLMD) patients also showed slightly elevated SAS and SDS scores, which at the neurophysiological level were accompanied by EEG maps resembling those found in depression and anxiety [76].

These subjectively experienced sleep disturbances were corroborated by objective polysomnographic data. After acute administration of 1 mg clonazepam, a statistically significant improvement of subjective and objective sleep quality as well as a decrease in the bruxism index were observed. PLMs improved as well, which con-

Variables		А	Р	С	Internight differences (Wilcoxon test)
Vigorimeter	Right finger Left finger	0.5 ± 0.1 0.4 ± 0.1	0.4 ± 0.1 0.4 ± 0.1	0.5 ± 0.1 0.4 ± 0.1	C:P*
	Right hand	0.6 ± 0.2	1.1 ± 1.3	0.7 ± 0.2	
	Left hand	0.6 ± 0.2	1.1 ± 1.3	0.6 ± 0.2	
Systolic blood pressure evening, mm Hg		117.0 ± 14.6	118.0 ± 19.6	120.0 ± 24.8	
Diastolic blood pressure evening, mm Hg		75.0 ± 11.5	73.5 ± 11.6	75.0 ± 12.0	
Pulse rate ever	ning, bpm	62.2 ± 9.1	62.6 ± 8.4	63.1 ± 8.6	
Systolic blood pressure morning, mm Hg		120.6 ± 11.8	116.0 ± 5.8	121.4 ± 17.2	
Diastolic blood pressure morning, mm Hg		77.2 ± 6.7	74.5 ± 8.0	78.3 ± 15.2	
Pulse rate morning, bpm		63.2 ± 10.5	63.2 ± 7.5	63.9 ± 11.4	

Table 7. Acute effects of 1 mg clonazepam on psychophysiological measures in sleep bruxers (n = 10) as compared with placebo

firms our previous studies in RLS and PLMD patients with the same compound [70]. Thymopsychic, noopsychic and psychophysiological variables showed no significant changes, which speaks for the good tolerability of the compound.

The improvement of the target variable – the bruxism index - is inasmuch of clinical interest as up to now pharmacological interventions have been inconclusive. Many years after a negative single-case report on L-dopa by Magee [77], Lobbezoo et al. [78] showed a modest (approximately 30%) but significant reduction in SB-related motor activity. An increase in tooth grinding was reported by Micheli et al. [79] in schizophrenics treated with antidopaminergic drugs such as haloperidol. Recent controlled studies with the modest dopamine agonist bromocriptine did not reveal any effect on SB [72]. Utilizing propranolol, a β -adrenergic receptor blocker in an open study, Amir et al. [80] described a reduction of tooth grinding in patients treated with neuroleptics. On the other hand, one has to take into account that propranolol can both reduce sleep quality and worsen sleep disorders such as apnea, insomnia and REM behavior disorder [14]. The serotoninergic involvement in the pathophysiology of SB is also unclear. Serotonin reuptake inhibitors, such as fluoxetine, sertraline, fluvoxamine and paroxetine, have been associated with tooth clenching or tooth grinding [81-83]. On the other hand, the use of tryptophan, a 5-HT precursor, or a modest though classical serotonin reuptake-inhibiting drug, such as amitriptyline or its metabolites, failed to exacerbate or attenuate SB [84–86]. Recently, Huynh et al. [73] reported that clonidine, an α_2 receptor agonist that causes central sympathetic nervous system depression, reduced the average sleep bruxism index and burst index by 61 and 73%, respectively, after one dose of 0.3 mg given at bedtime. However, as clonidine also caused a decrease in blood pressure upon awakening in 3 out of 16 subjects, this compound will not be implemented in clinical routine. Nevertheless, the findings confirm the hypothesis that SB is controlled centrally [87]. A further hindrance for clinical use of clonidine is the suppression of REM sleep from 20 down to 0%. In our present study, clonazepam had no effect on sleep stages, except for a slight increase in the percentage of S2, which had already been described in our studies with clonazepam in RLS patients as well as PLMD patients [70]. The significant increase in the apnea and apnea-hypopnea index is a relative contraindication of the drug in sleep-related breathing disorders, but it has to be emphasized that both indices were changed only marginally and remained within normal limits.

Although our present acute drug trials with clonazepam seem very promising for the treatment of SB, further long-term studies are necessary in order to show the maintenance of therapeutic efficacy and long-term tolerability.

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