Prolactinoma case study: Severe behavioural problems on Cabergoline

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A 47 year old-year male was referred by his oncology consultant due to severe headaches, incidental MRI scan showed pituitary adenoma. History going back 6-7 years old complains of headaches with increase severity over time. They tend to be over the left eye radiating over the back of his head and occur every two weeks. Often wakes up with them. Other associated symptoms include low libido and extreme tiredness.

There were no visual fields defects on examination. Investigations showed hyperprolactinaemia and hypogonadism, prolactin 9312 mU/L and testosterone 4.1 nmol/L. ACTH stimulation and thyroid functions were within normal levels. Macroprolactinoma diagnosis was made.

Patient was treated with dopamine agonist, Cabergoline. Prolactin level normalized to 69 mU/L and improved testosterone level of 5.4 nmol/L but he has experience neuro-psychiatric side effects. He became emotionally labile, loss of inhibitions on drinking and smoking, became far more sexually minded than he had ever been which is significantly disinhibited to the point he get himself into trouble.

Due to severe behavioural problems, dopamine agonist was withdrawn. This is non-standard or non-conventional clinical management approach and there are risks associated with it.