Abstract

According to the U.S. Library of Medicine (2018), 1 in 2000 individuals in the United States and Western Europe are affected by narcolepsy, or Gelineau syndrome. Those with mild symptoms may not be diagnosed, and worse yet, those seeking medical attention may be misdiagnosed, especially in children and adolescents. Further research of the disease revealed misdiagnosis is a common theme with narcolepsy. Often, individuals are diagnosed with emotional or psychiatric disorders and prescribed inappropriate medications. “Lack of clinical awareness about different presentations in children and adolescents often leads to misdiagnosis of narcolepsy as schizophrenia, epilepsy, and other neurological disorders” often leading to incorrect prescribing of antipsychotic medications, and antiepileptic medications (Gupta et al., 2017, p. 20). The first step in dissolving the complexity of narcolepsy, no matter what part of the lifespan, is diagnosis. Therefore, the purpose of this poster presentation is to not only aid in a better understanding of narcolepsy, but help guide clinicians to appropriate medical diagnosis of narcolepsy.