Some investigators have postulated facilitative roles of increased noradrenergic (Baca & Martinelli, 1990) or serotoninergic (Halman & Goldbloom, 1990) activity in the pathogenesis of NMS. However, in the present patient, who was apparently very susceptible to NMS, of the antidepressants prescribed, only amoxapine, which has a significant dopaminergic blockade property (Cohen et al., 1982), caused NMS, while the remaining antidepressants which all potentiate noradrenergic and/or serotoninergic activities did not. Thus, the present report suggests that dopaminergic blockade sufficiently explains the pathogenesis of NMS (Otani et al., 1991), and that facilitative roles of noradrenergic and serotonin are minute. Although the cause(s) of dramatic fall in serum iron level in NMS remains obscure, this may further facilitate hypodopaminergic states as suggested by Rosebush & Stewart (1989), since iron deficiency diminishes central dopaminergic activity.


