

【病例報告(case report)投稿範例】

老人急性譫妄及高氨血症，最後診斷為丙戊酸中毒
An Elder of Valproic Acid Intoxication, Presented as Acute Delirium and Hyperammonemia.

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Introduction: Delirium is an increasing problem in elders who were brought to the Emergency Department (ED). Causes of delirium are widespread and complex, including primary intracranial diseases, systemic diseases affecting the central nervous system (CNS), exogenous toxins, and drug withdrawal. As our population is aging, the number of elders with multiple co-morbidities is increasing. Complex medications, decreased sensorium and metabolism make it more complicated....

Case Report: This 75-year-old woman is a patient of dementia, old subdural hemorrhage, hydrocephalus after ventriculoperitoneal shunting and seizure who received phenytoin and valproate from our clinic. She was brought to the ED because of progressive change of mental status and worsening at night for several days. On arrival, she was restless, disoriented, and vital signs were respiration of 22 breaths/min, pulse of 84 beats/min, blood pressure of 103/66 mmHg, and temperature of 36.8°C. Other physical exams were unremarkable. Blood tests reported glucose 113 mg/dl, creatinine 1.9 mg/dl, ammonia 521 mcg/dl, but others were within normal limits. Brain computed tomography showed hydrocephalus with a ventriculoperitoneal shunt similar to previous films. Discontinuation of valproate, supportive treatment, and close observation were provided....

Discussion: Valproate is a medication for seizures. It can increase levels of γ -aminobutyric acid, prolong the recovery of inactivated sodium channels, impair fatty-acid metabolism, and disrupt the urea cycle. CNS depression, hyperammonemia, liver damage, electrolytes disturbances, hypoglycemia can be resulted and coma, respiratory depression, hypotension, and even mortality were reported in high-dose intoxication. Although valproate intoxication has been rarely reported in Taiwan, we should alert for it because of increasing use of this medication. Review of the medication and discontinue any suspected drug is as important as workups for other potential causes for an elder with conscious disturbances.

說明

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