Baclofen

Altered mental status, visual hallucinations and haemodynamic instability due to baclofen toxicity: case report

A 58-year-old man developed altered mental status, visual hallucinations, haemodynamic instability and drug toxicity during treatment with baclofen [time to reactions onsets not stated].

The man was hospitalised for altered mental status. His had chronic back spasms, hypertension and end-stage kidney disease secondary to perinuclear anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody vasculitis. He had recently started haemodialysis therapy. A week before his admission, he presented to emergency department due to back spasms, and was given oral baclofen 10mg every 8 hours. However, he developed progressive confusion during the next several days, and was found at home after pulling out his haemodialysis catheter. He also developed visual hallucinations and was disoriented. During the current presentation, his heart rate was 105 beats/min, oxygen saturation was 90% on room air and BP 98/67mm Hg. His speech was tangential and was not sure about the reason for his admission. He had also been receiving various other medications concomitantly. His recent haemodialysis session was thought to be five days before the presentation. The baclofen therapy was suspected to be the most likely cause of altered mental status secondary to baclofen toxicity.

The man's treatment with baclofen was stopped. He was immediately started on haemodialysis. There was significant improvement in his mental status after one session. His mental status returned to the baseline and he was discharged [not all outcomes stated].

Author comment: "Altered mental status in a patient with end-stage kidney disease secondary to baclofen toxicity, accumulation of baclofen exacerbated by a missed HD session."

Wolf E, et al. Baclofen Toxicity in Kidney Disease. American Journal of Kidney Diseases 71: 275-280, No. 2, Feb 2018. Available from: URL: http://doi.org/10.1053/j.ajkd.2017.07.005 - USA 803302115