

Short Comments to the Paper of J. Klapetek

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Results of toxicological analysis on the stomacal content were indeed not mentioned in our paper. However, barbiturates were not detected, and only traces of tilidine were observed. Obviously the medicines were nearly completely absorbed.

There is furthermore a controversion between several authors whether or not respiratory depression may occur with tilidine, as well as this controversion is known for its dependence-producing potential¹. Most of the published papers referred to by the author relate to animal experiments or to experiments on humans following administration of therapeutic doses which can hardly be compared with the 750 mg dose ingested at once by the victim. Such situation is much more alike to the experiments of Romagnoli and Keats (obtained on humans and at high doses) who showed that tilidine at equianalgetic doses (10 mg of morphine is to be compared with 80–100 mg of tilidine) is at least as potent as morphine in depressing respiration² (tilidine was given by intravenous route but is also very readily absorbed from the commercial capsules). Nevertheless it was clearly pointed out as well in the abstracts as in the discussion of our paper that the death is due to the combined action of barbiturates and tilidine. The small dose of hydroxyzine ingested by the victim may have contributed as well.

¹ See *Ärzteblatt Baden-Württemberg* 10, 771 (1976), and *Selecta* Nr. 40, 3608 (1976)

² Romagnoli, A., Keats, A.: *Clin. Pharmacol.* 17, 5, 523 (1975)