Poster Abstracts

PO-29

DEATH FROM N-ACETYLCYSTEINE FOLLOWING ACETAMINOPHEN POISONING, A CASE REPORT

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Objective: Acetaminophen is an over the counter drug so it can be used for suicidal attempt especially among adolescents. There are four main clinical stages following Acetaminophen overdose. The lowest dose that can cause acute toxicity is more than 150mg/kg in children and more than 7.5gr in adults. The best diagnostic test is evaluation of serum Acetaminophen level 4 hours after ingestion.

Method: A 14 year old girl admitted to emergency department 10 hours after suicidal ingestion of 20 Acetaminophen (total dose of 6.5gr), 10 Ibuprufen and 10 Metformin tablets, with a history of mild asthma, complaining nausea, vomiting, dizziness and confusion. The initial vital signs were normal. Serum Acetaminophen concentration was not available and because of unreliable history the patient underwent N-Acetylcysteine (NAC) 150mg/kg in 200 ml D5W intravenously for 1 hour as loading dose. During NAC consumption the patient showed angioedema, hypotension and anaphylaxy reaction, and so NAC infusion discontinued. Epinephrine, hydrocortisone, chlorpheniramine and other conservative therapy applied. Unfortunately despite of appropriate treatment the patient died 19 hours after admission.

Conclusion: Anaphylactoid reaction including nausea, vomiting and cutaneous reactions may occur in up to %18 of patient who received IV NAC. In 1% cases it may be sever and cause hypotension, bronchospasm, angioedema and death. Anaphylactoid reactions are more common in patients with lower serum Acetaminophen concentration.