

Poster Abstracts

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THE RISK OF VEGETAMIN, DRIVE OUT THE DANGEROUS MEDICINE

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Background: Vegetamin is a combined drug of phenobarbital, promethazine and chlorpromazine manufactured and sold only in Japan. Vegetamin is an antipsychotic agent having strong sedative and hypnotic activity used to treat insomnia and anxiety with schizophrenia and depression. On the other hand, Vegetamin often causes drug dependence and has a risk of fatal respiratory depression with drug over dose and The Japanese Society of Sleep Research and Japanese Society of Mood Disorders recommended not to use Vegetamin for insomnia. Some thoughtless psychiatrists, however, prescribe Vegetamin easily according to strong demands of patients.

Our purpose were to reveal the risks of Vegetamin use and background of prescription.

Method: We retrospectively identified 217 patients who transported to University of Occupational and Environmental Health, Japan by ambulance from January 1 2011 to June 30 2014. The study subjects were assigned into two groups: (I) Vegetamin over dose group and (II) non-Vegetamin overdose group.

Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) on admission, admission rate, admission rate to the intensive care unit, and respiratory utilization was compared between these two groups. Statistical analysis was done by Mann-Whitney U-test. P values less than 0.05 were considered significant. We also analyzed the background of Vegetamin prescription.

Result: In all, 12 patients (5.5%) overdosed Vegetamin and the remaining 205 patients (94.5%) overdosed non-Vegetamin agents. The mean Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) on admission was significantly lower in Vegetamin group than in non-vegetamin group. Admission rate to the intensive care unit, and respiratory utilization rate were significantly higher in Vegetamin group than non-Vegetamin group ($p < 0.05$). There were two cases of death in Vegetamin group. 6 clinic prescribed Vegetamin and two of those clinic accounted for 66.7% of all Vegetamin prescription. We submitted a report of two fatal cases to the pharmaceutical company of Vegetamin.

Conclusion: The overdose of Vegetamin had very high risk of consciousness disorder and respiratory depression. Therefore, psychiatrists should refrain from Vegetamin prescription.

The pharmaceutical company announced that it will stop making and selling Vegetamin in Japan because of repeated requests from emergency physician, toxicologist and common-sense psychiatrists.