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Treatment with plasma exchange for acute high dose nifedipine poisoning

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Objective: To sum up the clinical manifestations and evaluate the effectiveness of plasma exchange in acute high dose of nifedipine poisoning.

Methods A total of 7 patients with acute high dose of nifedipine poisoning were enrolled in this study. Their clinical manifestations and treatment procedures were analyzed. They were treated with gastric lavage, rapid massive fluids, vasopressor support, drugs for protecting gastric mucosa and plasma exchange.

Results All patients presented with low blood pressure, 3 were shocked. Four patients suffered from narcolepsy and 3 dysphoria. Five patients had bradycardia and 2 had tachycardia. They all had disturbance of acid-base balance, with ion disturbance and pulmonary edema. After 5-10 days of treatment, six patients were cured with normal blood pressure, mentality and heart rate. Their disturbance of acid-base balance and ion were corrected. One died of severe pulmonary edema at last.

Conclusions Besides basic treatment such as gastric lavage, rapid massive fluids, drugs for protecting gastric mucosa and vasopressor support, early use of plasma exchange was used in the management of acute high dose of nifedipine poisoning.