

Xylazine as a new drug-facilitated crime

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Abstract

Xylazine has been used as a sedative and muscle relaxant in veterinary medicine. This drug was withdrawn from human use because of serious side effects. Although, several cases used xylazine as a drug of abuse, suicidal and accidental poisoning were reported. In Thailand, we found the new cases of xylazine intoxication in elderly patients. All of three patients came to the hospital for a normal visit. They were found unconscious alone in the hospital. The prominent signs in these patients included comatose, hypotension and bradycardia similar to the previous reported cases. We also found dysarthria in all patients. The Electrocardiogram showed sinus bradycardia. All of them recovered fully after intensive supportive treatment. From the patient history, they received the drink from the stranger before the symptom occurred. Detection of xylazine in blood using LC-MS/MS method confirmed the cause of drug poisoning. We concerned on the awareness of xylazine as a new drug-facilitated crime and should be classified into controlled drug group.
