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Acute dystonic reaction associated with fluoxetine overdose

Jariya Phuditshinnapatra¹, Summon Chomchai¹, Aim Srirawaraporn², Panithan Pattawang²

¹Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University

²Department of Emergency Medicine, Chiang Mai University Hospital

Objective: Acute dystonia is group of symptoms caused by dopaminergic antagonist. We report a case presented with acute dystonic reaction after fluoxetine ingestion.

Case report: A 21 years old female with history of major depressive disorder presented with nausea, agitation, feeling of tongue stiffness and difficulty talking 40 minutes after ingesting a handful amount of fluoxetine (20 mg per capsule) in attempting suicide. Her vital signs were: body temperature 36.5 °C, blood pressure 115/68 mmHg, heart rate 106/min, respiratory rate 28/min and oxygen saturation 98% at room air. On physical examination, she was awake and aware with normal Glasgow Coma Scale score. Stiffness of neck, blepharospasm and generalized hyperreflexia were noted. No tremor or diaphoresis were observed. ECG 12 lead showed sinus tachycardia with QTc prolongation. Blood chemistry panel showed mild hypokalemia and hypomagnesemia. She was treated with 12 mg of oral cyproheptadine and 5 mg of intravenous diazepam. After 3 days of admission with no more cyproheptadine given during the stay, she fully recovered and was discharged home.

Conclusion: Patient with fluoxetine overdose alone may present with acute dystonic reaction without full criteria for diagnosis of serotonin syndrome.