

Alimemazine/oxazepam/venlafaxine overdose

OS

Serotonin syndrome with cardiac shock: case report

A 41-years-old woman developed serotonin syndrome with cardiac shock following an overdose of venlafaxine, alimemazine and oxazepam.

The woman ingested venlafaxine 13500mg, alimemazine 1200mg and oxazepam 11700mg. On the second day, she presented with a severe serotonin syndrome with cardiac shock. On the fourth day, her tests showed venlafaxine blood concentration of 5842 ng/mL and O-desmethylvenlafaxine blood concentration of 386 ng/mL. On the eleventh day, venlafaxine and O-desmethylvenlafaxine blood concentrations were 2118 ng/mL and 275 ng/mL, respectively, and urine venlafaxine and O-desmethylvenlafaxine concentration were 30000 and 51650 ng/mL, respectively [outcome not stated].

Author comment: *"In case of poisoning, venlafaxine can elicit a severe serotonin syndrome with shock." "It can also be masked and/or aggravated by the concomitant use of neuroleptic drugs whose clinical expressions are similar."*

Mermet C, et al. Venlafaxine poisoning responsible for a severe serotonin syndrome in a patient deficient in cytochrome P450 2D6. *Toxicologie Analytique et Clinique* 28: 170-175, No. 2, Jun 2016. Available from: URL: <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.toxac.2016.03.003> [French; summarised from an English abstract] - France

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