WEEKLY LECTIONS

Phenobarbital recipients had the lowest IQ scores at baseline. Compared with baseline, there were significant increases in mean IQ scores in valproic acid recipients and controls at 9-12 months but not in phenobarbital recipients. At the 9-12 months assessment, phenobarbital recipients had significantly lower mean total and verbal IQ scores compared with the control group whereas the mean IQ scores of valproic acid recipients and controls were similar. 26, 23 and 40 valproic acid-treated, phenobarbital-treated and control children, respectively, completed the study.

Calandre EP. Dominguez-Granados R. Gomez-Rubio M. Molina-Font JA. Cognitive effects of long-term treatment with phenobarbital and valproic acid in school children. Acta Neurologica Scandinavica 81: 504-506, Jun 1990

Phenylephrine

Postoperative unilateral mydriasis: case report

On recovery from anaesthesia, the right pupil of a 49-year-old man was noted to be dilated with sluggish direct and consensual responses to light. The patient had undergone surgical repair of a left oral-antral communication and phenylephrine 1% drops had been placed in the right nares to aid intubation.

In the recovery room, a neurologist deemed the patient to be alert, responsive and oriented. However, the right pupil was round, 7mm in diameter, with slow reactions to light and accomodation (compared with the left pupil which was fully reactive and 3mm in diameter). Following examination, an ophthalmologist concluded that '... the clinical picture was consistent with inadvertent placement of phenyleprhine HCl 1% drops directly into the eye, or through reflux via the nasolacrimal duct after nasal placement of the drops'. Abnormal signs had resolved after 6

Rubin MM, Sadoff RS, Cozzi GM. Postoperative unilateral mydriasis due to phenylephrine: a case report. Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 48: 621-623, Jun 1990

Phenylephrine see Paracetamol/caffeine/ chlorphenamine/phenylephrine

Praziquantel

First report of acute respiratory failure and exudative polyserositis: case report

"... Acute respiratory failure and exudative effusive polyserositis should be recognized as potential side effects of ... praziquantel. Progressively worsening symptoms of fever, abdominal pain, myalgia, severe pleuritic chest pain, diarrhoea and a pruritic papulomacular rash occurred in a 21-year-old man within 4 hours of the administration of praziquantel 1.8g for schistosomiasis. On examination, the patient was febrile and tachycardic and had generalised abdominal tenderness with an enlarged liver and spleen; ultrasound demonstrated periportal fibrosis. The WBC count was raised with marked eosinophilia. The patient subsequently became tachypnoeic and developed large pleural effusions, a pericardial effusion and ascites. The patient was in acute respiratory failure. Investigations revealed peritoneal and pleural fluid to be exudative. Symptoms resolved after 3 days of supportive treatment.

Azher M, El-Kassimi FA, Wright SG, Mofti A. Exudative polyserositis and acute respiratory failure following praziquantel therapy. Chest 98: 241-243, Jul 1990

Prilocaine see Lidocaine/prilocaine

Quinine

Cholestatic liver disorders: case report

A 4-day history of fever, chills, headache, blurred vision, photophobia, arthralgia, myalgia, nausea, abdominal pain and diarrhoea preceded the admission of a 39-year-old woman. She had started taking quinine 300mg bid for leg cramps 3 weeks earlier.

Examination revealed epigastric and right upper quadrant abdominal tenderness and nuchal rigidity. Leucocyte and platelet counts were decreased. Increases of > 9-, 3-, > 2.5- and 2-fold were recorded for AST, ALT, alkaline phosphatase and total bilirubin, respectively. Urinalysis detected 2+ ketones and 1+ proteins.

Following quinine withdrawal on admission, fever resolved and the patient's condition improved dramatically; liver function improved within 2 days and had normalised within 1 week. Rechallenge with oral quinine 260mg produced a recurrence of symptoms within hours. All symptoms resolved after 2 days and liver function was normal 4 days after rechallenge.

"... Because quinine can be taken in nonprescription medications, it remains a possibility that some cases of "idiopathic" liver injury due to this agent are unrecognized.' Specific questioning about the use of quinine-containing compounds is advisable in patients with a similar presentation to this woman.

Punukollu RC, Kumar S, Mullen KD, Quinine hepatotoxicity. An underrecognized or rare phenomenon? Archives of Internal Medicine 150: 1112-1113, May 1990

Salbutamol see Theophylline

Streptozocin

S

First report of insulinoma in an elderly patient: case report

One year after receiving streptozocin 1 g/m² every 10 days for hepatomegaly arising from metastatic gastrinoma, a 72-year-old man was admitted in a state of stupor. Examination showed hypoglycaemia and raised serum insulin levels with a serum insulin: glucose ratio of 0.6-2. Following the administration of diazoxide 400 mg/day, his blood glucose increased > 3-fold and insulin levels decreased 2-fold, after which the patient felt well.

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The authors speculated whether '... the emergence of insulinoma is the natural history of islet-cell carcinoma or is in fact related to the prolonged streptozotoin [strepotozocin] therapy.'

Bar M, Burke M, Isakov A, Almog C. Insulinoma after streptozotocin therapy for metastatic gastrinoma: natural history or iatrogenic complication? Journal of Clinical Gastroenterology 12: 579-580. Oct 1990

Testosterone

Recurring psychosis?: case report

Bunse J, Menger H. Relapsing psychosis provocated by testosterone? Aktuelle Endokrinologie und Stoffwechsel 71: 159-161. Jul 1990 [German]