

Nadroparin calcium**S****Thrombocytopenia in an elderly patient: case report**

An 81-year-old woman developed heparin-induced thrombocytopenia while receiving nadroparin calcium.

The woman presented to an emergency department with shortness of breath. She had had a limited exercise capacity for years, which had deteriorated over the previous 3 days. Upon presentation, she had dyspnoea at rest, and could not talk in full sentences. She also reported episodes of 'scraping' chest pain, with increasing pain on physical effort. Two weeks earlier, she had started nadroparin calcium [*dosage not stated*] for a suspected thrombophlebitis of the left calf. Upon current examination, she was in respiratory distress. Pulmonary auscultation showed bilateral basal crepitations. Her abdomen showed scattered black skin lesions from nadroparin calcium injection. She had a history of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Sweet syndrome and a deep vein thrombosis 2 years earlier, complicated by pulmonary embolism. Tests showed a significantly increased D-dimer level and a moderate thrombocytopenia of $68 \cdot 10^9/L$. Arterial blood gas analysis showed hypoxia and mild metabolic alkalosis. A CT scan showed severe bilateral pulmonary embolism, with near-complete occlusion of the left pulmonary artery. Heparin-induced thrombocytopenia was suspected.

Nadroparin calcium was withdrawn, and the woman was admitted to a cardiac care unit. She scored 7 on a 4Ts test, and the diagnosis of heparin-induced thrombocytopenia was confirmed with a quick immunoassay, and later with ELISA. She started fondaparinux sodium. On day 5, her platelet count recovered to $146 \cdot 10^9/L$, and she started warfarin. Her hospital stay was complicated by a respiratory infection. She was discharged on day 28, and at last follow-up, she had had no recurrence of thrombosis or embolism.

Author comment: "*We present a case report of a patient with [heparin-induced thrombocytopenia complicated by thrombosis; HITT] successfully treated with fondaparinux [sodium]*".

Gevaert A, et al. Fondaparinux in heparin-induced thrombocytopenia. *Acta Cardiologica* 68: 517-520, No. 5, 2013. Available from: URL: <http://poj.peeters-leuven.be/content.php?url=issue&journal&5Fcode=AC&issue=5&vol=68> - Belgium

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