

Insulin/insulin suspension isophane overdose

O S

Acute hepatitis: case report

A 29-year-old male physician developed acute hepatitis after intentionally administering insulin and insulin suspension isophane in a suicide attempt.

The man was admitted with severe hypoglycaemia after subcutaneous administration of 1500 units of insulin, 600 units of insulin suspension isophane and 1500 units of a 70/30 insulin suspension isophane/insulin mixture. Investigations revealed the following results and values: plasma glucose 26 mg/dL, hyperinsulinaemia 934 μ U/mL and C-peptide 0.05 ng/mL.

After 48 hours of dextrose therapy, consciousness returned and the man subsequently began to eat. He experienced three further hypoglycaemic episodes whilst undergoing dextrose treatment and on his fifth day of admission, a significant elevation in his AST and ALT levels developed. Liver ultrasonography and viral analysis proved unremarkable. His raised AST and ALT levels improved and he was released from hospital. After 60 days, his transaminase levels had almost normalised.

Author comment: *"Rapid increase and spontaneous decrease of transaminase levels, absence of any concomitant disease signs, and normal morphological findings on ultrasonographic evaluation, suggested the possibility of acute toxic hepatitis due to intensive glucose infusion."*

Guclu M, et al. Suicide attempt of a physician with 3600 units of insulin and rapid onset acute hepatitis. Internal Medicine Journal 39: e5-e7, No. 12, Dec 2009.

Available from: URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1445-5994.2009.02090.x> -

Turkey

803007541