Insulin/insulin suspension isophane



Nocturnal hypoglycaemia: case report

A 61-year-old man developed nocturnal hypoglycaemia following administration of insulin suspension isophane for type 1 diabetes and desensitization therapy with insulin.

The man was hospitalised with poor diabetes control and itchy eruption at the insulin injection site due to insulin allergy. He had been receiving insulin therapy for one year and was found to be allergic to almost all human insulin except the protamine, zinc, and glycerol analogues. He received insulin desensitization therapy with up to 4.0U of insulin. His skin reaction improved and he was able to tolerate injections of insulin four times daily [specific drug not clearly stated]. However, at the same time he developed nocturnal hypoglycaemia [durations of treatment to reaction onset not stated]. His bed-time dose of insulin isophane suspension [dosage not stated] was initially reduced, and finally the treatment was stopped [outcome not stated].

Author comment: "In our case, it is possible that insulin desensitization therapy induced these blocking antibodies with properties similar to those in IAS [insulin autoimmune syndrome]. In summary, we observed hypoglycaemia induced by insulin desensitization therapy."

Kitamoto T, et al. A case of type 1 diabetes with nocturnal hypoglycemia after desensitization therapy for insulin allergy. Diabetes Care 36: e89, No. 7, Jul 2013 -