

Salbutamol/theophylline

Hyperlactacidaemia: case report

While being treated with salbutamol [albuterol] and theophylline [*dosages not stated*] for acute asthma, a girl [*age not stated*] developed a sharp increase in lactate levels [*duration of treatment to reaction onset not stated*]. Although she exhibited no clinical signs of compromised blood circulation and transcutaneous oxygen saturations remained normal, laboratory investigations revealed a disturbance of pyruvate utilisation which caused hyperlactacidaemia. [*Patient outcome not stated*].

Author comment: *"This adds evidence to a previously proposed hypothesis that β_2 -adrenergic agonists through promotion of lipolysis induce impairment of pyruvate dehydrogenase. The same mechanism could apply to hyperlactic acidosis secondary to theophylline overdosing."*

Kovacevic A, et al. Hyperlactic acidosis as metabolic side-effect of albuterol and theophylline in acute severe asthma. 18th Annual Congress of the European Respiratory Society : abstr. P3981, 4 Oct 2008. - Germany 801127976