

Tetryzoline

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CNS depression in a child after accidental ingestion of an ophthalmic preparation: case report

CNS disorders occurred in a 2-year-old boy after he accidentally ingested tetryzoline [Visine®] eye drops.

The child was brought to an emergency department because of increased lethargy and unresponsiveness. He had been found playing with an open bottle of Visine® eye drops 2-3 hours earlier; it was assumed that he ingested up to 2-3 ml from the bottle.

The boy was responsive only to deep pain and his pupils were pinpoint. His respirations were shallow and his BP was 76/40mm Hg. Tests showed hypoglycaemia, which was treated with glucose. Neither his HR, BP nor mental status responded to treatment with naloxone. Because of progressive CNS depression and shallow respirations, he was intubated and mechanical ventilation was started.

The boy was transferred to intensive care. His body temperature was 35°C. His BP increased to 94/60mm Hg after the administration of normal saline. He was able to be extubated 18 hours after admission. After 48 hours, the CNS disorders had resolved and he was discharged.

Author comment: *'Despite its potential for toxicity, there are limited reports in the literature concerning actual ingestion and toxicity in children from the imidazoline compounds of nonprescription eye drops.'*

Tobias JD. Central nervous system depression following accidental ingestion of Visine eye drops. *Clinical Pediatrics* 35: 539-540, Oct 1996 - USA 800481397