

### Tetryzoline overdose

OS

#### Cardiovascular and CNS disorders following inadvertent ingestion of ocular formulation: case report

A 17-year-old girl developed cardiovascular and CNS disorders after inadvertently ingesting an overdose of tetryzoline ocular formulation.

The girl had a history of chest palpitations and was receiving metoprolol. She had a mild upper respiratory tract infection and mistakenly ingested a 'mouthful' from a bottle of 0.05% tetryzoline ocular formulation, thinking it was a cough/cold remedy; she reported ingesting approximately 10 – 15 mL. She presented to an emergency department 25 minutes after ingesting the overdose. She was lethargic with ataxia, slowed speech, dizziness, headache and sinus congestion. She had BP of 153/90 mm Hg and a pulse rate of 39 beats/min. Examination showed 6mm pupils and a moist oropharynx. She was admitted for observation.

The girl received IV sodium chloride. A rhythm strip revealed sinus bradycardia (45 beats/min). She had a WBC count of 17 800 and a blood glucose level of 174 mg/dL. Drowsiness, bradycardia and orthostatic hypotension continued over the next 36 hours. She was discharged 38 hours after ingestion of the overdose. She was instructed to restart metoprolol. It was estimated that she ingested tetryzoline 67 – 102 mcg/kg.

**Author comment:** *"It is unclear if the persistent headache reported by our patient was related to the [tetryzoline] or the existing sinus congestion."*

Spiller H, et al. Prolonged cardiovascular effects after unintentional ingestion of tetrahydrozoline. *Clinical Toxicology* 46: 171-172, No. 2, Feb 2008 - USA

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