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Single low dose baclofen induced encephalopathy in patient with renal failure: Case report with literature review

Murouj Almaghrabi

Faculty of Medicine, Umm AlQuraa University, Makkah, Saudi Arabia

Baclofen is a muscle relaxant widely administered, often used as a treatment for certain forms of spasticity and other diseases. It is excreted mainly through the kidneys; toxicity is a potentially serious adverse effect in patients with impaired kidney function. We aim to highlight the potential risk of baclofen toxicity in patients with kidney impairment even with a low dose and recommend avoiding prescribing baclofen for such patients.

We report a case of an 80-year-old female patient with renal failure who presented with acute confusion within 24 hours of receiving one single low dose of baclofen. Also, we did a literature review summary of 33 cases with renal impairment who developed baclofen toxicity.

After negating all the causes of her current presentation, a diagnosis of baclofen toxicity was made and subsequently, hemodialysis was done with improvement in her conscious level. She received 6 sessions of daily haemodialysis (HD). Her level of consciousness improved dramatically after the first HD session and she was able to communicate. A repeated EEG was performed then, which showed normal alpha background activity at 8 to 10 Htz. On the seventh day, she was fully conscious and oriented and was discharged home.

Baclofen toxicity consisting with metabolic encephalopathy including several features. Check renal function and keep a close follow-up of patients. Do not consider Baclofen if an eGFR > 30ml/min. HD should be instituted urgently

Biography

Minna Chang is a final year medical student at Imperial College London.

murouj@outlook.com