

Vincristine

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Various toxicities: case report

A 56-year-old man developed paralysis, respiratory failure and adult respiratory distress syndrome following accidental intrathecal vincristine admission.

The man, who had a history of leukaemia, hepatitis C virus (HCV) and HIV, accidentally received vincristine 1.3mg intrathecally instead of methotrexate. He was started on continuous external ventricular drainage (EVD) and was continued for 5 days. He was additionally treated with pyridoxine, folic acid and cyanocobalamin. On day 8, he developed paralysis, respiratory failure and adult respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS). He required a respiratory support. However, he died on day 31. Vincristine level of 4.9 mg/L was observed prior to the EVD, which became undetectable from day 2.

Author comment: *"We report a fatal case of analytically confirmed intrathecal accidental administration of vincristine."*
"Inadvertent intrathecal administration produces ascending paralysis and severe neurotoxicity that can progress to respiratory failure and coma."

Lonati D, et al. Vincristine fatality after accidental intrathecal administration: Analytical and therapeutic challenges. *Clinical Toxicology* 54: 447-448, No. 4, 2016. Available from: URL: <http://doi.org/10.3109/15563650.2016.1165952>
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