

Mutliple drugs

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Hyperkalaemia and lack of efficacy: case report

A 72-year-old developed hyperkalaemia during treatment with heparin and irbesartan. Additionally, he exhibited lack of efficacy while receiving insulin and sodium polystyrene sulfonate for hyperkalaemia [*dosages and routes not stated*].

The man presented with progressive respiratory distress since 29 June 2021. His past medical history was significant for diabetes mellitus type II, hypertension, and unspecified arrhythmia. His regular medications included antidiabetic repaglinide and antihypertensive drugs like Irbesartan [ibesartan] along with come other medications. A nasopharyngeal swab was found positive for COVID-19 mRNA by RT-PCR. Subsequently, he was managed at home with off label azithromycin and prednisone. He also received vitamin C, vitamin D and oxygen supply. On 07 July 2021, he was admitted with worsening dyspnoea. A diagnosis of severe COVID-19 was made. He received off label treatment with dexamethasone, first line ceftriaxone and ofloxacin and second line imipenem, amikacin and vancomycin. Additionally, he received noninvasive ventilation, ascorbic acid [vitamin C], vitamin D and anticoagulation with enoxaparin sodium [enoxaparin] and heparin. After 10 days, he suffered respiratory degradation with severe hypoxaemia, shock, and acute kidney injury (AKI) requiring intubation with mechanic ventilation and vasoactive treatment with norepinephrine and dobutamine. On 21 July 2021, haemodialysis was started due to the worsening of AKI with progressive anuria associated with hypervolemia and hyperkalaemia [*duration of treatments to reaction onset not stated*].

Hyperkalaemia was found refractory to insulin [insulin-dextrose] and sodium polystyrene sulfonate (lack of efficacy). Irbesartan was discontinued for suspected drug-induced hyperkalaemia. Even after haemodialysis every day with combined to medical strategy, hyperkalaemia persisted and was associated to hyponatraemia. He had a total of 7 sessions of combined haemodiafiltration to classic haemodialysis. Unfractionated heparins were used for anticoagulation during the haemodialysis session. On 28 July 2021, he was transferred abroad. One day after, he died in context of a severe hypoxaemia.

Nlandu YM, et al. Ineffectiveness of Intermittent Hemodialysis in a Critically Ill COVID-19 Patient: A Case of Persistent Heparin-Induced Hyperkalemia. Case Reports in Nephrology 2022: 8613656, Jan 2022. Available from: URL: <https://www.hindawi.com/journals/crin/> 803653782