

"UNRAVELLING THE G-FORCE"

INTRODUCTION

Liquid G or known as Gamma Hydroxybutyrate is a mysterious drug in medical field, hence the flow of management is still unclear. Here, an adult presented to us with complication post ingestion of Liquid G mixed with ecstasy.

CASE PRESENTATION

23 yrs old, gentleman brought in to A&E by his friend ,who found him unconscious after consumed recreational drug named as "Liquid G" mixed with ecstasy. Upon arrival to A&E ,noted patient unconscious with GCS 4/15 with impending airway, pupils 3/3 sluggish, all other vital sign within normal parameter.

Patient was intubated in view of airway protection. During intubation, noted vomitus stain in oropharyngeal cavity. Post intubation, drug toxicology shows positive for Metamphathamine and Amphathamine. Upon examination, patient had crepitation over right lung, and check x-ray shows haziness over right upper quadrant of lung. Thus antibiotic was initiated to cover for aspiration pneumonia. He was kept intubated for 2 days in view of lung pathology. On day 3 of admission, patient was extubated and transferred to general ward. Holistic approach ranged from Emergency room care, ICU care, medical treatment, psychiatric team and addiction team review were given until patient discharged home.

Follow up visit appointment to our clinic was given to ensure lung recovery of the patient and addiction anticipation were given.



Figure 1.1 : CXR shows right upper quadrant consolidation.



Figure 1.2 : Ecstasy which found along with patient.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Liquid G or know as Gamma Hydroxybutyrate ($C_4H_8O_3$), used as "Club drug". Popular as strength enhancer, euphoriant and aphrodisiac also known as "date rape" drug. Previously illegal drug, but in 2002 its been approved by FDA as part of narcolepsy treatment. However this drug can be lethal if consumed together with alcohol beverages.

Combined use with other sedatives or hypnotics (such as barbiturates or benzodiazepines) and other drugs that possess CNS depressant activity may result in nausea, vomiting and aspiration, and dangerous CNS and respiratory depression.

Many case reports pointed out death associated with intoxication, withdrawal complications, even intubation and post intubation care. However no clear guideline on indication of intubation. In Malaysia, Liquid G still remain as "Mysterious drug" and doctor still clueless about treating patient accordingly post intoxication including decision making for intubation, need for RSI, post intubation care and extubation.

Emergency clinicians may be unaware that GHB has been abused when a patient presents to the hospital. Due to the short half-life of the drug, detection in the urine may be difficult. Supportive care and keeping airways open are the primary measures used in the emergency overdose situation.

No case been reported so far in Malaysia makes us first to report such intoxication.

REFERENCES

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