

18th International Conference on

Oral Health & Maxillofacial Surgery

December 05-06, 2016 Madrid, Spain

Case report of cardiac dysarrhythmia following dental prescription of metronidazole

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Metronidazole is a nitroimidazole antibiotic medication which has a specific activity against anaerobic bacteria and protozoa. In cardiology, the QT interval represents electrical depolarization and repolarization of the ventricles. A lengthened QT interval is a marker for the potential of ventricular tachyarrhythmias. Rare cases have been reported with QT prolongation in which metronidazole antibiotic had been used. The arrhythmogenic properties of metronidazole are not yet clear. This case reports a 10-year-old male child of 30 kg body weight with no history of any chronic illness or drug allergy came to the dental clinic with facial swelling, which was diagnosed as dental abscess. He was given oral metronidazole (500mg 3times/day for 5 days). On the third day, he presented to the emergency department with palpitation, vomiting and then he collapsed. CPR was done and ECG showed prolonged QT corrected interval (QTc 480 ms). Laboratory tests including serum potassium, magnesium and liver functional test were within normal. Metronidazole was immediately stopped and subsequently the ECG returned to normal. In conclusion, Metronidazole can potentiate QT prolongation. Further investigation should be carried out to assess its potential effect on QT interval and subsequent lethal arrhythmias. The maximum pediatric dose should be reviewed.

Biography

Almatrafi Badria has completed her BDS in 1991 from King Saud University in Riyadh, KSA and AGD certificate in 2000 from university of South California, USA. She is a consultant in restorative dentistry at Prince Sultan Military Medical city in Riyadh. She worked as a Director of officers dental clinics and had years of experience in teaching and clinical supervision. She is a member of infection control team.

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