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Ondansetron and heparine induced priapism in two cases

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Priapism is an erectile disorder that is a prolonged and persistent penile erection without sexual stimulation lasting longer than 4 hours. Herein we report two priapism patients because of the medication ondansetron and heparin.

Case 1. A 70-year-old man was diagnosed lung, brain and colon cancer 2 years ago. Now some chemotherapy protocols are giving to him for cancers. In addition to prevent emesis he is taking infusion of 8 mg ondansetron daily. During the first course, the patient reported having non-painful priapism and approximately last for 8 hours and each after lasting about 9 hours, with spontaneous regression. There was no perineal or penile trauma. The patient did not have drug abuse. In PET scan there was no penile metastasis. After removing the ondansetron therapy, no priapism were seen. A 56-year-old man with 20-year diabetic patients also receive hemodialysis three times a week due to chronic renal failure. The patient had priapism since the last two months. In the penile ultrasonography, it was reported that the high flow priapism. Aspiration therapies were made a lot of times in various Medical Centers. But all these are failed. In our department diluted phenylephrine (200 micron / ml) were given for every 3-5 intracavernosally's for up to 1 hour. But we failed again and the high flow priapism was continued. When literature scan revealed, heparin cases were detected. And heparin use in dialysis was interrupted in this case. Low molecular weight heparin was used instead. Five days after heparin was discontinued priapism undergo spontaneous resolution.

In these two cases, after removing the heparin and ondansetron, spontaneous resolution were seen.

Priapism can sometimes occur as a drug-induced side effect. In the literature these drugs are described as antidepressants, antiepileptics, neuroleptics, anticoagulants, antihypertensives, alpha 1 blockers, serotonin receptor antagonists.

Priapism represents a big challenge in the therapeutic management among erectile Disorders. Sometimes the etiology can be a drug that the patient uses. Referring with the list of drugs that patients use. If priapism occurs with drug treatment and replace it with a further alternative medical agent.

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