

APPA 2021 Spring Meeting Medical Student/Resident Poster Presentation

Abstract 21-1-15

Title: Serotonin Toxicity and Reactive Attachment Disorder, a Case Study.

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Summary: Serotonin syndrome is a potentially lethal medication induced condition that is associated with the use of medications that increase serotonergic activity, most often antidepressant medications. The clinical features of serotonin syndrome can vary widely, thus early identification and intervention is critical to reduce mortality rates.

The case described here is a 16-year-old male, with a past psychiatric history of oppositional defiant disorder and reactive attachment disorder, who was transferred to the hospital for a higher level of care following a suicide attempt via overdose. Prior to arriving to hospital, the patient was intubated and showed signs concerning for possible serotonin syndrome. The patient's primary team was informed by his mother that the patient had recently overdosed on a one week supply of Abilify, Lamictal, Singular, and Zoloft. The patient reportedly began to feel "bad" and was taken to the ED emergently for evaluation. On initial presentation, the patient was alert and responsive. However, soon after the patient's condition became dire and he decompensated and required life saving interventions. We use this case to highlight the various important features of serotonin toxicity including early signs and considerations that should be recognized in an emergency setting.

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