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Principles of management in a case of multidrug poisoning

For a patient, doctor is equivalent to God and the God is infallible. But that is for patients. In reality, doctors are human beings and to err is human. Public awareness of Medical Negligence is growing in India. Hospital managements are increasingly facing complaints regarding facilities, standard of professional competence and the appropriateness of their therapeutic and diagnostic methods. Highlighting this fact is a case of combined drug intoxication (CDI), also known as multiple drugs in take (MDI). The reasons for toxicity vary depending on the mixture of drugs. Most victims die after using certain combinations that suppress breathing, lowers blood oxygen level and causes brain death. Ingestion of alcoholic beverages, in combination with other drugs, increases the risk of CDI. Analgesics, antihypertensive; multivitamins are the common drugs which are used in CDI. Easy availability of these drugs has resulted in their abuse. Antihypertensive drugs constitute leading form of cardiovascular drug overdose. Among these calcium-channel blockers and beta blockers take the lead. Treating such patients is a great challenge for any treating physician due to the complications that it causes. A multidisciplinary approach is required, wherein the physicians from different specialities sit together and discuss regarding the management.

Biography

P Sampath Kumar holds the position of head of the department of Forensic Medicine & Toxicology and Vice principal of the reputed Sri Ramachandra University and RI, Chennai. He is a Post Graduate (MD) in Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, degree obtained from the prestigious and one of the oldest institutions, Madras Medical College. He has over 25 years of experience in the field and has dealt with a number of important cases which has been deputed to him by the high court of madras, one of it being conducting the autopsy of ex- Prime Minister of India Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. He holds many top positions in the various societies of forensic medicine and toxicology in India, one of them being the President of Medico Legal Society of Tamil Nadu. Currently he is also the Member of Advisory Committee of IXth Annual Conference of Indian Society of Toxicology to be held in August 2015 at Chennai. He has given a number of talks both in National and International forums and also published number of papers related to the field. He has also guided number of students in their thesis work, one of them being a PhD student who is at present undertaking a study on, "The methodology of treatment of organophosphorus poisoning cases using physiologically based pharmacokinetic model as a new tool."

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