

10th International Conference on

ENDOCRINOLOGY, ENDOCRINE DISORDERS & THERAPIES

October 30-November 01, 2017 Chicago, USA

Hypertriglyceridemia and glycerol: Blank yet?

Renuka Rajagopal and Maria Srinivasan
Lincoln Medical Center, USA

Triglycerides or triacylglycerols (TG) are esters of glycerol and fatty acids. Screening for TG levels is indicated for appropriate cardiovascular risk estimation. Laboratory estimation of TG relies on enzymatic degradation of TG and production of glycerol. Increased glycerol level in the body from ingestion or enzymatic deficiency in pathways of endogenous glycerol metabolism can falsely overestimate the TG and can lead to false diagnosis of hypertriglyceridemia. We are presenting a case of pseudo-hypertriglyceridemia in a patient with glycerol toxicity. The patient had been binge drinking glycerol and presented with excessive urination and abdominal pain. The TG were elevated initially which normalized on repeat measurements. We also review the alternatives to circumvent pseudo-hypertriglyceridemia while performing lipid panel.

Biography

Renuka Rajagopal is currently a Resident of Internal Medicine at a Lincoln Medical Center in Bronx, NY, USA. She has completed her Ophthalmology Fellowship in University of Pittsburgh, USA. She is interested in pursuing critical care medicine.

renukarajagopal2112@gmail.com

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