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Liraglutide- How safe is it in clinical practice?

Shamima Yeasmin, Danwen Yang and Mark Hotchkiss
St. Vincent's Medical Center, USA

Introduction: Published case reports have documented the relationship between exenatide use and acute kidney injury. However, to our knowledge, few cases of this adverse effect with liraglutide, another glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist approved for the treatment of Type2 diabetes mellitus, have been reported.

Case: We describe a 60-year-old Caucasian woman who came to a community hospital with progressively worsening gastrointestinal symptoms for 1 week, leading to dehydration and development of acute kidney injury. No history of recent NSAID use and radiological contrast studies. 2 weeks earlier, the patient had begun liraglutide 1.8 mg/day subcutaneously for uncontrolled Type2 diabetes laboratory results showed an increase in her serum creatinine concentration to 8.5 mg/dl. Use of the Naranjo adverse drug reaction probability scale indicated a possible relationship (score of 3) between the patient's development of acute kidney injury and liraglutide. Laboratory testing was helpful in ruling out other potential causes of renal failure and adverse drug reactions due to other drugs. Based on clinical data, liraglutide was determined to be the most likely cause of acute tubular necrosis. The patient was successfully treated with discontinuation of liraglutide, volume repletion, and hemodialysis.

Conclusion: Clinicians should be aware of this possible complication and closely follow liraglutide's dosage titration recommendations in the package insert. Patients should also be educated about the need to report unusual or prolonged gastrointestinal symptoms.

Biography

Shamima Yeasmin has completed his MD from Dhaka Medical College, Bangladesh, PhD from Shimane Medical University, Japan, Postdoctoral Fellowship at University of Michigan, USA. Dr. Yeasmin has more than 25 publications (research and clinical). She has been serving as an active associate member of American Association of Cancer Society since 2009. Currently, she is doing residency in internal medicine at St Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport, CT.

shamima.yeasmin@stvincents.org

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