Case report of cardiac dysrhythmia following dental prescription of Metronidazole

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Metronidazole is a nitroimidazole antibiotic medication which has a specific activity against anaerobic bacteria and protozoa. In cardiology, the QT interval represents electrical depolarization and repolarization of the ventricles. A lengthened QT interval is marker for potential of ventricular tachyarrhythmia. Rare case has been reported with QT prolongation after using metronidazole antibiotic. The arrhythmogenic properties of metronidazole are not clear yet. This case reports a 10-years old male child of 30 kg body weight with no history of any chronic illness or drug allergies came to the dental clinic with facial swelling, which was diagnosed as dental abscess. He was given oral metronidazole (500 mg three times per day for five days). On the third day, he presented to the emergency department with palpitation, vomiting and then collapsed. CPR was done and ECG showed prolonged QT corrected interval (QTc 480 ms). Laboratory tests including serum-potassium, magnesium and liver functional test were within normal. Metronidazole was immediately stopped and subsequently the ECG returned to normal. In conclusion, metronidazole can show potential effect on QT prolongation. Further investigation should be carried out to assess its potential effect on QT interval and subsequent lethal arrhythmias. The maximum pediatric should be reviewed.

Biography
Faisal Al Rumaihi has completed his PhD at Boston University, Henry M. Goldman School of Dentistry in 1997. He is the Director of Restorative and Cosmetics Dentistry at Prince Sultan Military and Medical City, KSA. He is an Associate Professor in Post-graduate Program at Riyadh Military Hospital in Riyadh.

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