Administration of acetylcholinesterase inhibitors for central anticholinergic syndrome in pediatric poisoning

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Abstract:
Initial management of patients with anticholinergic syndrome can at times be challenging either in pre-hospital and in-hospital setting. They are often agitated, aggressive, disorientated, uncooperative and their management may be very difficult. Physostigmine has been used as a specific antidote for anticholinergic poisoning, but due to the potential toxicity of the drug itself, its administration is restricted to carefully selected cases. General emergency management of patients with antimuscarinic toxicity is based on proper diagnosis and supportive therapy. In some instances, application of intensive therapy means is necessary. We review 28 pediatric cases of toxic ingestion of Datura stramonium seeds, leading to clinically diagnosed anticholinergic syndrome, and discuss the accuracy and efficiency of the applied pharmacotherapy.

Key words:
poisoning, acetylcholinesterase inhibitors, anticholinergic syndrome, neostigmine, physostigmine