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Loperamide-Induced Torsades de Pointes: A Case Series (Poster).

Kenneth D. Katz MD

Lehigh Valley Health Network, Kenneth D.Katz@lvhn.org

Robert D. Cannon DO Lehigh Valley Health Network, Robert D.Cannon@lvhn.org

Matthew D. Cook DO Lehigh Valley Health Network, Matthew D.Cook@lvhn.org

Alexandra Amaducci Lehigh Valley Health Network, Alexandra. Amaducci@lvhn.org

Ryan Day Lehigh Valley Health Network, Ryan.Day@lvhn.org

See next page for additional authors

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Authors Kenneth D. Katz MD; Robert D. Cannon DO; Matthew D. Cook DO; Alexandra Amaducci; Ryan Day; Joshua Enyart DO; Glenn Burket; Jennifer Janssen MS; and Karl E. Williams MD, MPH	

Loperamide-Induced Torsades de Pointes: A Case Series

Kenneth D. Katz, MD,¹ Robert D. Cannon, DO,¹ Matthew D. Cook, DO,¹ Alexandra Amaducci, DO,¹ Ryan Day, MD,¹ Joshua Enyart, DO,¹ Glenn Burket, DO,¹ Jennifer Janssen, MS,² Karl E. Williams, MD, MPH²

1 Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania; 2 Office of the Medical Examiner of Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Loperamide (Imodium TM) is an antidiarrheal opioid acting at the μ receptor agonist in high concentrations. Due to the US opioid epidemic, loperamide abuse and ensuing life-threatening toxicity has surfaced.

HYPOTHESIS:

The timing and duration of Torsades de Pointes (TdP) from loperamide toxicity is unpredictable and should be heeded with caution, even in asymptomatic patients and drug discontinuance.

METHODS:

Two patients presenting with lifethreatening TdP requiring lengthy hospital admissions for confirmed loperamide toxicity are discussed. Patient data were retrieved from the hospital's EMR system.



CASE REPORT 1

A 28-year-old man with a history of depression and heroin abuse presented to the ED with shortness of breath and lightheadedness. He admitted to ingesting large amounts of loperamide daily. His initial ECG demonstrated sinus rhythm 67 bpm, right axis deviation, undetectable PR interval, QRS 168ms and QTc 693ms. The patient was administered sodium bicarbonate and magnesium sulfate IV and admitted to the ICU. On HD 2, he developed persistent TdP. He was administered lidocaine and isoproterenol infusions, and a temporary, external pacemaker was placed for overdrive pacing. He was discharged in stable condition on HD 16 after all therapies were discontinued. Serum loperamide and desmethyl loperamide concentrations obtained on HD 1 measured 120ng/mL and 560ng/mL, respectively. Serum loperamide and desmethyl loperamide concentrations on HD 10 measured undetectable and 16ng/mL, respectively.

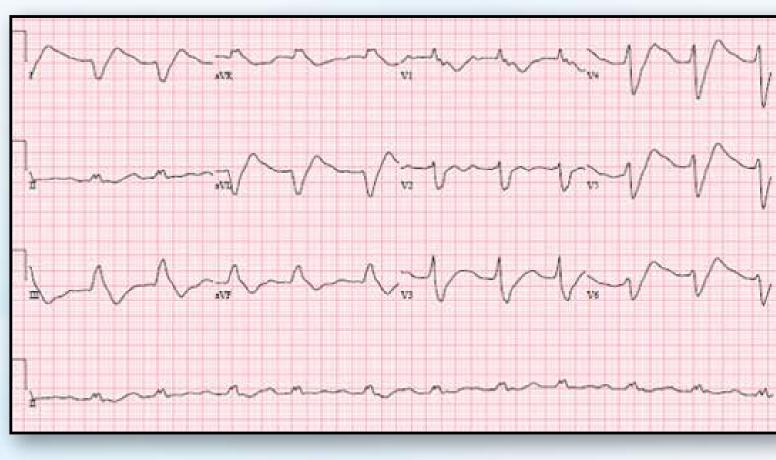


Figure 1. ED ECG#1, 28-year-old male.

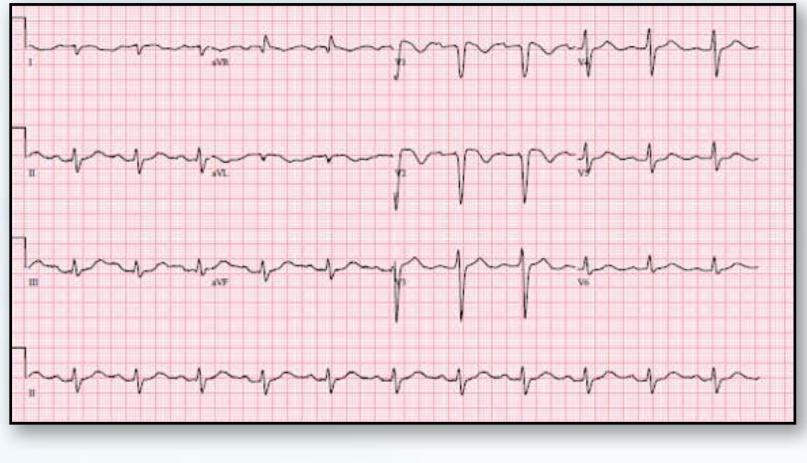


Figure 2. ED ECG#2, 28-year-old male.

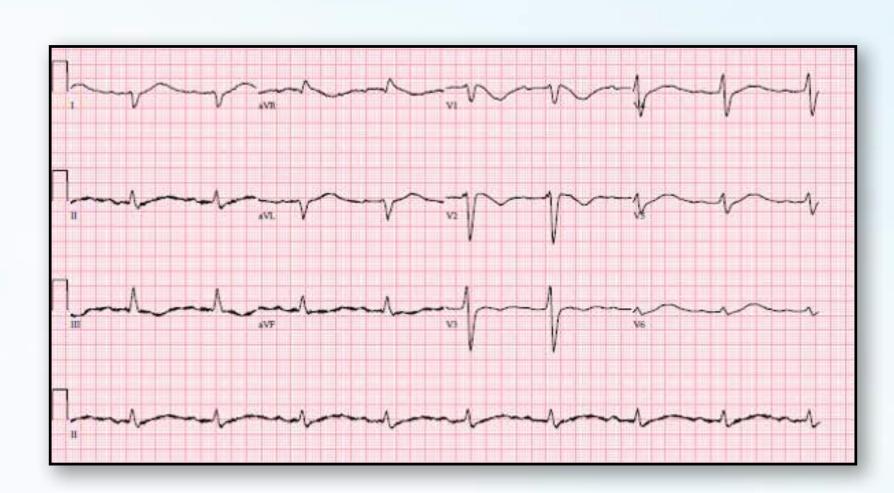


Figure 3. ED HD2, 28-year-old male.

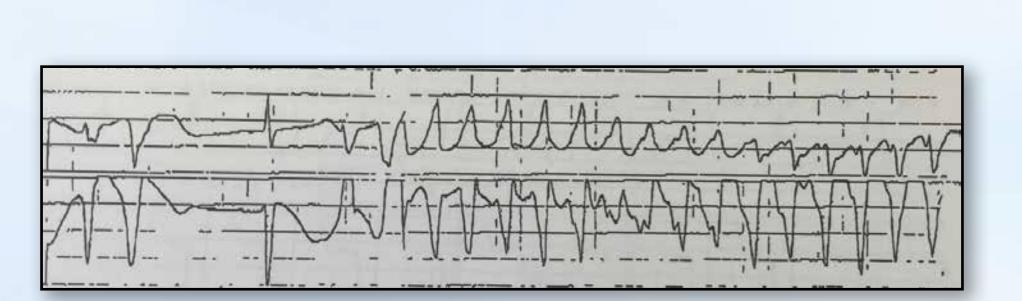


Figure 4. ECG HD3 showing Torsades de Pointes.

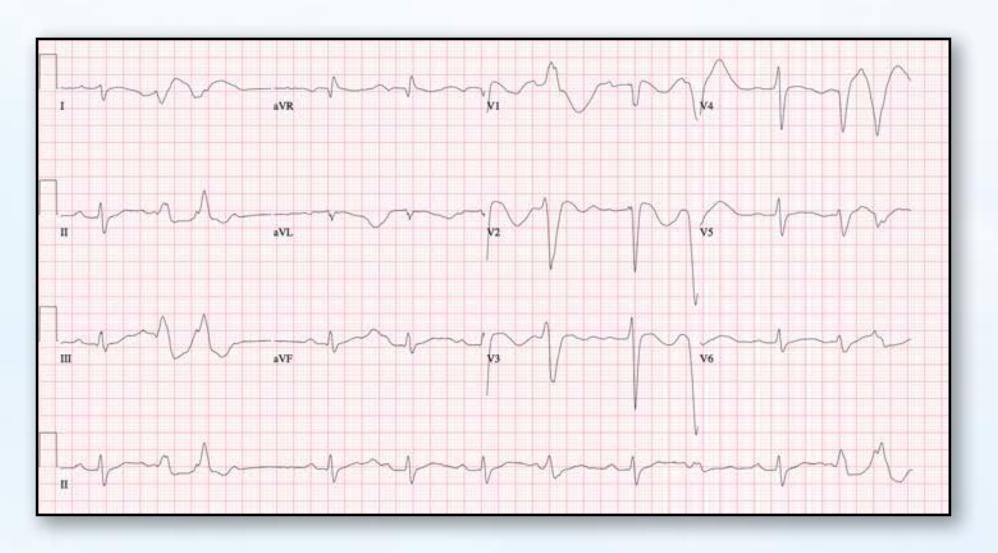


Figure 5. EKG from HD4, associated with TdP episode requiring cardioversion.

CASE REPORT 2

A 39-year-old woman with Hepatitis C, depression and IVDA was transported to the ED after reported seizure-like activity. The patient experienced TdP in the ED and admitted to ingesting large amount of loperamide daily. An ECG demonstrated sinus rhythm 64 bpm, right axis deviation, PR interval 208ms, QRS interval 142ms and QTc 687 ms. She was administered IV magnesium, sodium bicarbonate, and later, isoproterenol. After ICU admission, the patient experienced no further TdP and was discharged on HD 6. Loperamide and desmethyl loperamide concentrations on HD 4 were undetectable and 27ng/mL, respectively.

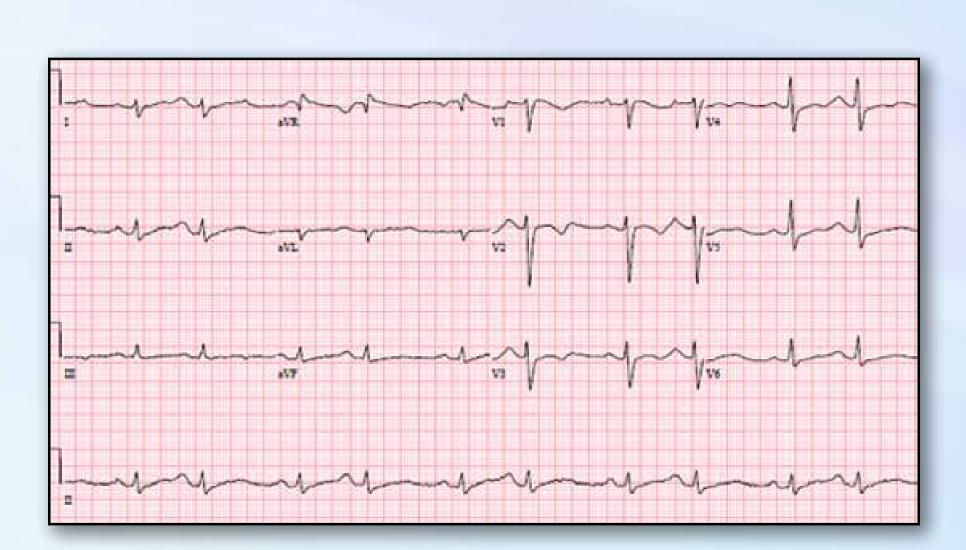


Figure 6. ED ECG #1, 39-year-old female.

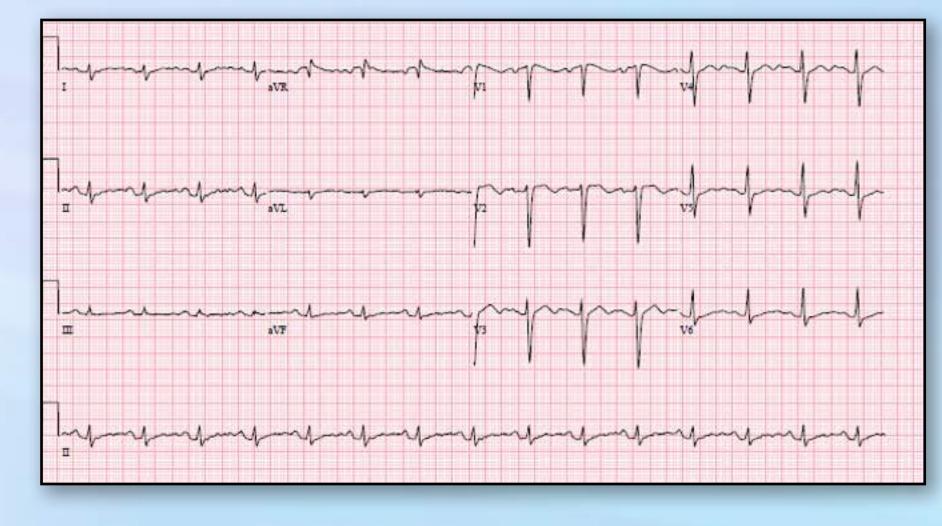


Figure 7. ECG #2, 39-year-old female.

CASE DISCUSSION

These cases illustrate the extreme and persistent toxicity associated with loperamide abuse and the need to treat ECG derangements aggressively, even in asymptomatic patients.

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