LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Response to Toluene intoxication — Atrioventricular block due to hypokalemia?

To the Editor:

We thank Drs Pan and Lin for their interest in our recent article in *J Formos Med Assoc*. Pan et al suggested that the arrhythmogenic effect of toluene itself rather than hypokalemia might be a better explanation for the atrioventricular (AV) block observed in our patient. Our patient was treated with toluene withdrawal and aggressive potassium replacement. Regression of first-degree AV block was ahead of serum potassium normalization. We agree with Pan et al’s opinion from the patient’s hospital course; however, sporadic case reports had demonstrated the association of hypokalemia with AV block following long-term heavy cola consumption, habitual drinking of Oolong tea, and thyrotoxic periodic paralysis. The role of hypokalemia in AV block still could not be excluded completely. Further study is needed.

References


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