
Anesthesiology
50:56–57, 1979

**Prevention of Anaphylaxis to Contrast Medium**

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Anaphylactic reactions to the injection of contrast medium are rare, but potentially catastrophic. This is a report of the prevention of an anaphylactic reaction in a patient who had had documented anaphylaxis in response to contrast medium only eight hours earlier.

**REPORT OF A CASE**

A 50-year-old white woman who had a history of progressive angina was admitted for diagnostic cardiac catheterization. She specifically denied allergies to iodine and iodine-containing products. After premedication with meperidine, 75 mg, and promethazine, 25 mg, im, a left ventriculogram was performed through a catheter inserted via the right femoral artery. A pressure-injected 45-ml bolus of meglumine diatrizoate was given, after which the patient complained of a "cold, clammy feeling," and a diffuse maculopapular rash developed. The patient was treated with diphenhydramine, 50 mg, and methylprednisolone, 100 mg, iv, which relieved her symptoms. Catheterization of the coronary arteries was then performed, and 10 ml contrast medium injected. The patient immediately became dyspneic, and wheezing was heard over the lung fields. Arterial blood pressure was 40/0 torr. The patient was placed in Trendelenburg position and iv fluids were given rapidly. Oxygen was administered by face mask, and 10 ml epinephrine (1:10,000) were administered iv. Blood pressure improved and the wheezing subsided. The study was terminated.

Eight hours after the episode of anaphylaxis, the patient's right leg was discovered to be cold and pulseless. The decision was made to perform a femoral-artery thrombectomy with local anesthesia. Because of difficulty in locating the thrombus, angiography was necessary. Methylprednisolone, 1 g, iv, was given 30 min, and diphenhydramine, 25 mg, 5 min prior to injection of the contrast medium. Meglumine diatrizoate, 30 ml, was injected into the femoral artery, with no change in arterial blood pressure or other vital signs. The patient's chest remained clear to auscultation and no rash appeared. Two subsequent injections of 50 ml of each contrast medium were preceded by diphenhydramine 25 mg, iv, and likewise resulted in no evidence of a reaction. The patient was discharged from the hospital on the fourth postoperative day.

**DISCUSSION**

Anaphylaxis to contrast medium was first attributed by Mann1 to histamine release. Subsequent work has shown that additional chemical mediators, such as serotonin, plasma kinins (kallidin I, kallidin II) and slow-reacting substance (SRS-A) play major roles in this reaction.2 Manifestations of anaphylaxis characteristically may include urticaria, bronchospasm, laryngeal edema, hypotension, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and motor convulsions.3,4 The treatment of anaphylaxis includes administration of epinephrine, aminophylline, fluids, corticosteroids and vaspressors, when necessary. Upper-airway obstruction from laryngeal edema may necessitate tracheal intubation. Pathologic studies by James and Austen5 showed that upper airway edema and obstruction were the predominant abnormalities in fatal cases of anaphylaxis.

Until recently, this reaction was not reproducible in an animal model as a response to a specific contrast medium,6 although it was well known as a clinical entity. Although the reaction to contrast medium has not been shown to be IgE-mediated7 and no antibody has been identified, histamine is released.8 Pretreatment with antihistamines will prevent some of the symptoms of anaphylaxis, but antihistamines
Ventricular Tachycardia Terminated by Exubation of the Trachea

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Although cardiac control is often explained in terms of intrinsic myogenic mechanisms, there is good experimental and clinical evidence that the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems exert profound and immediate control over cardiac rate, rhythm, fibrillation threshold and contractility.† Arrhythmias are commonly seen in patients with endotracheal tubes in place. Ventricular tachycardia terminated by removal of an endotracheal tube has not yet been reported. We report such a case and discuss possible mechanisms in terms of current theories of airway reflexes and neurogenic cardiac control.

REPORT OF A CASE

A 45-year-old white man was admitted to the hospital with a history of incapacitating angina. His medications included nitro-