

**Sertraline****S****Serotonin syndrome in a child: case report**

A 5-year-old boy developed severe serotonin syndrome after taking sertraline belonging to his older sister.

The boy presented with his twin brother to an emergency department 1 hour after ingesting an unknown amount of his older sister's sertraline 25mg tablets. The bottle, which had just been refilled and contained 20 tablets, was found empty. He admitted to consuming one tablet, indicating that his twin had consumed the rest; his twin did not require any intervention. He had vomited twice at home, but appeared normal on arrival. However, 2 hours later he exhibited diaphoresis, with a temperature of 38.1°C, visual hallucinations, uncontrollable leg movements, psychomotor agitation and 7mm reactive pupils.

The boy was given several bolus doses of IV lorazepam, totalling 13.5mg over 12 hours. He was awake and agitated during that time. He was admitted to the paediatric ICU for 4 days, and discharged home upon a return to baseline. A serum sertraline concentration drawn 48 hours after ingestion was 41 ng/mL (reference peak for a 50mg ingestion: 9.5 ng/mL), which was inconsistent with the reported sertraline ingestion.

**Author comment:** *"The child's sertraline ingestion, confirmed with biological testing, and signs and symptoms are consistent with serotonin syndrome". "This supports the hypothesis that children may develop serotonin syndrome following a one-time ingestion of sertraline. Furthermore, the serum sertraline concentration is inconsistent with the reported ingestion, highlighting the importance of confirmatory testing".*

Biary R, et al. Serotonin syndrome in a five year old child. Clinical Toxicology 51: 596-597 abstr. 49, No. 7, Aug 2013. Available from: URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.3109/15563650.2013.817658> - USA

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