Cyclopentolate



Neurological disorders in an elderly patient: case report

A 90-year-old patient [sex not stated] developed neurological symptoms after receiving cyclopentolate to induce mydriasis during ophthalmological examination.

The patient received cyclopentolate eye drops [dosage not stated] and subsequently developed acute confusion [duration of treatment to reaction onset not stated]: the patient became disoriented to time and space, and exhibited motoric unrest, an unsteady gait and incomprehensible speech. On presentation to a hospital 2 hours after symptom onset, the patient was fully oriented, but exhibited retrograde amnesia regarding any events leading to admission. Neurological examination revealed right-sided hemianopia and latent right brachiofacial hemiparesis with pronounced reflexes. Recent infarctions were excluded on MRI, and an EEG was unremarkable. The patient was admitted for observation. Ultrasound, laboratory investigations and ECG gave no indication of the aetiology of the confusion. On further questioning, the patient then reported that eye drop application had been repeated several times to achieve the expected effect; the patient could not remember further events at the clinic [outcome not clearly stated].

Author comment: We assumed cyclopentolate intoxication in our patient. The temporal relationship between symptom onset and application of the eye drops, as well as the exclusion of other causes, made this aetiology appear most likely.

Pauli R, et al. Intoxication with cyclopentolate eye drops. Nervenarzt 80: 967-969, No. 8, Aug 2009 [German] - Germany 80115430: