VIDEO

Cephalosporin-induced myoclonus

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A 65-year-old man presented with cough and fever. Regular medication comprised insulin, metformin, ramipril, indapamide, gabapentin, and allopurinol. IV cefuroxime, 1.5 g TID, was

administered for five days. He then had a syncopal episode with aspiration pneumonia, whereupon IV ceftazidime, 2 g BID, was administered. Within two days, he developed confusion and widespread asynchronous myoclonus. Glucose, renal, and liver function tests were normal. There was no history of seizures, and cerebral imaging revealed no cause. The cephalosporin was exchanged for ciprofloxacin—the myoclonus and confusion resolved within one week. Drug-induced myoclonus¹ is rare in the context of cephalosporin use, where it usually forms part of a reversible encephalopathy associated with underlying renal impairment.²

Disclosure: The authors report no conflicts of interest.

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Neurology 2006;66;E20

DOI 10.1212/01.wnl.0000190256.30385.13

This information is current as of March 27, 2006

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