

Attempted suicide with a subcutaneous injection of liraglutide

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Objective

We present a case of a suicide attempt in a non-diabetic woman with a subcutaneous injection of liraglutide prescribed for weight loss. Liraglutide is a glucagon-like peptide-1 agonist which increases insulin release from the pancreas and decreases excessive glucagon release as blood glucose levels rise.

Case report

A 37 year old, non-diabetic woman of 75 kg self-injected 72 mg of liraglutide subcutaneously with a suicidal intent. Soon afterwards she presented continuous vomiting without other symptoms for which she presented at the emergency department two hours later.

After consulting the Belgian Poison Centre, a symptomatic treatment was started with continuous observation and monitoring of blood glucose levels and pancreatic function by serum lipase activity. During 36 hours of stay in the emergency department, no abnormalities in glucose levels or lipase activity were detected with 83 mg/ml being the lowest detected blood glucose level. The vomiting continued for 36 hours despite intravenous treatment with alizapride.

Conclusion

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first case report of a subcutaneous overdose of liraglutide in a non-diabetic patient. While blood glucose level monitoring was recommended, no signs of hypoglycaemia were detected. This is in line with liraglutides pharmacological action and its previous overdose reports. While pancreatitis is a known adverse effect in chronic users, no pancreatic abnormalities were present in our case. When drugs to lose weight are indicated, a good psychological risk assessment of the patient beforehand is required.

References

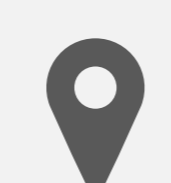
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