

## **UNEVENTFUL RECOVERY FROM A SUICIDE ATTEMPT WITH TETRABENAZINE**

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A 54 year old female with a 10-year-history of Huntington's disease was brought to our emergency service with drowsiness, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, and difficulty moving. We learned that she was on 75 miligrams tetrabenazine daily for 3 months and she ingested 625 miligrams of tetrabenazine in an attempt to suicide an hour ago. On neurological examination she was opening her eyes in response to verbal commands, she didnot reply questions, and she followed only one step motor commands. She had hypomimia bilaterally symmetric bradykinesia and rigidity. She was hydrated and detoxicated by active charcoal. Neither renal, hepatic dysfunction nor respiratory problems were present. She was hospitalised and within 48 hours she had fully recovered. We present this patient to review effects of very high doses of tetrabenazine.

Tetrabenazine inhibits monoamine uptake into vesicles of presynaptic neurons. It is widely used for the treatment of chorea and other hyperkinetic movement disorders. Common side effects are drowsiness, sedation, parkinsonism, depression, suicidality and akathisia. Reported toxic effects on mice are spasms with respiratory inhibition and opisthotonus. A 27-year-old female, who suffered only from sedation without any significant sequelae after 1 gram of tetrabenazine ingestion, was reported. To the best of our knowledge this is the second report of a suicide attempt with tetrabenazine, resulting in full recovery after transient sedation without any sequelae.