

Anaphylaxis and Regional Anesthesia: A Disastrous Combination During Cesarean Delivery

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Introduction

- It is mandatory to use antibiotics during cesarean delivery.
- Anaphylaxis to antibiotics is a rare event.
- 1 in 6,000 to 20,000 surgical procedures
- We describe a case where anaphylaxis occurred after the attainment of T4 level following neuraxial anesthesia for cesarean delivery in a parturient with morbid obesity.

Case Presentation

- A 23yo G3P1011 otherwise healthy patient presented at 40w4d in labor
- She underwent epidural placement with no dural puncture noted at that time and had an uncomplicated delivery
- On postpartum day 1, she developed a positional headache, relieved when supine
- Conservative treatment with acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and cosyntropin offered no relief

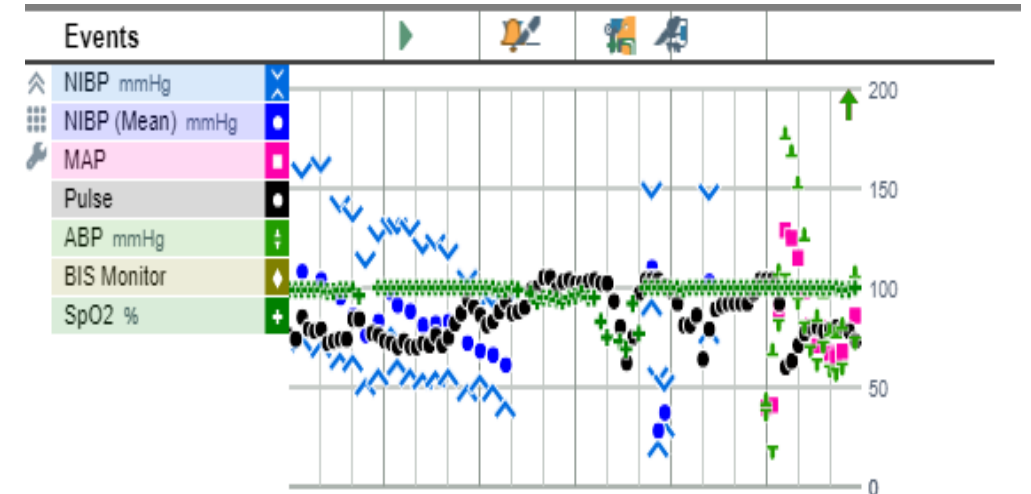
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Case

- 37 yr G2P1001 at 29 w6d with preeclampsia with severe features for cesarean delivery
- BMI 44, type 2 Diabetes, Mallampati 3 Airway
- She had prior ancef for cesarean delivery
- CSE bupivacaine 10 mg, fentanyl 10 µgm – Phenylephrine boluses and infusion to maintain blood pressure
- Antibiotics: 3 gm of Ancef was given, and 500 mg of Azithromycin is in progress.
- At 15 min, severe itching in both hands and restless
- BP keeps cycling, spo2 96%. Pulse not palpable
- Benadryl and hydrocortisone, phenylephrine, and boluses of epinephrine
- Induced GA as having difficulty in breathing and would not stay still
- End-tidal CO2: 38 mmHg, Arterial line BP: 66/40 mmHg.
- Epinephrine and phenylephrine infusions and boluses
- Good oxygenation, boluses bicarbonate, calcium

Amniotic fluid embolism ruled out as blood clotted well (Rotem)
Transthoracic and TEE, good RV and LV function
Normalized in about 2 hrs., extubated
Tryptase (56.9 µgm/L)



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Discussion

- We are required to give antibiotics for cesarean delivery
- In the Majority of the instances, they follow neuraxial block or in parallel
- Azithromycin is used at our institution - Additional risks of anaphylaxis
- Anaphylaxis following neuraxial block can exaggerate hemodynamic changes following neuraxial block in pregnant women with morbid obesity
- Mother can have a cardiac arrest
- The outcome of the baby can be affected – The baby needed cooling.
- No bronchospasm, no rash
- Case highlights – We must be geared to handle a catastrophic event 24/7

Sources

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