Pediatric Ziprasidone Ingestions

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We would like to applaud the authors of *Respiratory Failure Following Isolated Ziprasidone Ingestion in a Toddler* [1]. As the authors' case demonstrates, the unintentional ingestion of ziprasidone and other atypical antipsychotics is a growing public health concern and, as this case illustrates, sometimes leads to serious adverse events in children. There were over 40,000 exposures to atypical antipsychotics reported to the American Association of Poison Control Centers (AAPCC) in 2008. Many of these are mixed ingestions, but over 3,000 of these exposures were single-substance ingestions in children less than 6 years old [2].

We would like to point out that our paper published in April of 2009 reports a similar case involving a toddler unintentionally exposed to ziprasidone who required intubation and had confirmatory levels [3]. Likewise, our patient recovered quickly and was discharged without long-term consequences.

Unfortunately, we share the authors' belief that emergency physicians, toxicologists, and poison control centers will likely see an increase in unintentional pediatric ingestions of antipsychotics with serious adverse events.

References

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