Letters to the Editor

Cerebral arterial gas embolism, ingestion of hydrogen peroxide and flight

We read with interest the recent report by Smedley et al. on an interesting case of cerebral arterial gas embolism (CAGE) after pre-flight ingestion of hydrogen peroxide (H_2O_2).[1] The authors discuss the safety of aero-medical transfer following H_2O_2 ingestion. We agree with the possible problems but the concern on the other side of the coin needs to be mentioned; can transfer be delayed is the big question? Indeed, as reported by others, ingestion of even a small amount of concentrated H_2O_2 can result in CAGE.[2] Hence, whether aero-medical transfer proceeds or not, severe, life-threatening embolism can occur. Since it was reported that "*complete neurologic recovery occurred quickly with hyperbaric therapy*", this supports the contention that the fastest transfer of the patient for hyperbaric treatment should be the primary focus.[3]

References

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