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Rhabdomyolysis induced acute kidney injury in patient taking low dose rosuvastatin

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Case Study:

Statin is widely used for prevention of cardiovascular disease. Rhabdomyolysis is a well-known adverse effect of statin use. This paper presents a case of rhabdomyolysis induced acute kidney injury in patient with long term use of low dose rosuvastatin.

A 83-year old male presented with 3-day history of general muscle weakness. He slipped down 30 minutes before emergency department admission. The patient had no history of strenuous physical activity. He had been taking rosuvastatin 10mg per day and had been on the same dose for the last 3 years. At admission, he had difficulty in walking and maintaining sitting position. Neurological examination revealed proximal and distal muscle weakness in both upper and lower extremities. His blood pressure was 145/86mmHg, pulse was 86/min, and body temperature was 36.4° C. Initial laboratory data revealed a white blood cell count of 13,220 cells/ μ L, a hemoglobin level of 17.9 g/dL, a platelet count of 159,000 cells/ μ L, a serum total protein concentration of 7.4 g/dL, an albumin concentration of 4.2 g/dL, a blood urea nitrogen level of 29 mg/dL, a serum creatinine level of 1.35 mg/dL, a C-reactive protein (CRP) level of 20.26 mg/dL, a serum creatinine kinase of 62,651 IU/L, a lactate dehydrogenase(LDH) of 15209 IU/L, and serum myoglobin of >30,000 ng/mL. His urinalysis report showed proteinuria (2+) and 5-9 red blood cells per high-power field, 1-4 white blood cells per high-power field. His whole body bone scan showed extraskelatal soft tissue uptake in whole parts of body (Figure 1). His serum creatinine level increased and metabolic acidosis progressed. He required eight sessions of hemodialysis.

To our knowledge, there had been no previous reported case of low dose rosuvastatin induced rhabdomyolysis induced AKI. This case report presents that low dose statin therapy also has a risk of rhabdomyolysis.

Figure 1. Whole body bone scan shows extraskelatal soft tissue uptake in whole parts of body.