Discoveries of Distinction

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Comparative Resuscitation Measures for the Treatment of Desipramine Overdose

A toxic dose of desipramine (tricyclic anti-depressant) causes cardiac arrhythmias and ultimately asystole. Resuscitation in the emergency room is difficult and almost always unsuccessful. Anecdotal evidence suggests that an infusion of lipid emulsion may be an effective treatment. The purpose of this study was to determine the optimal combination of lipid rescue and traditional ACLS therapy for the treatment of desipramine overdose using a porcine model. The results indicated that the groups that received vasopressin were more likely to survive than those that did not vasopressin and the groups that received lipid emulsion were more likely to survive than those that did not receive lipid emulsion.

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