

Paradoxical and severe hypotension in response to adrenaline infusions in massive quetiapine overdose: the case for lipid rescue

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TO THE EDITOR: We note the recent report by Hawkins and Unwin of a patient with paradoxical and severe hypotension in response to adrenaline infusions in massive quetiapine overdose.¹ Lipid rescue is widely recognised by anaesthetists as a treatment for local anaesthetic toxicity,²⁻⁴ and is increasingly used for drug toxicity caused by other lipophilic drugs.^{5,6} A case report subsequent to that of Hawkins and Unwin described early treatment of a quetiapine and sertraline overdose with Intralipid (Fresenius Kabi Pharmacia),⁷ an emulsion of lecithin and soya oil.

In patients severely affected by life-threatening overdose with highly lipophilic drugs, it is reasonable to consider the use of a lipid emulsion. The successful use of these emulsions has now been described in a variety of overdoses. Further information is available at the website LipidRescue (<http://www.lipidrescue.org>), and in a recent editorial by Picard and Harrop-Griffiths.⁸

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