

## Introduction

- Drug-induced acute pancreatitis (DIAP) is a rare cause of acute pancreatitis.
- It is estimated to represent 0.1-2 % of all cases of acute pancreatitis and has been reported with various medications.
- DIAP secondary to acetaminophen-codeine is exceedingly rare.

## Case Description

- A 20-year-old male underwent surgery for acetabular impingement syndrome and was discharged on acetaminophen-codeine tablets for post-procedure pain.
- 1- one week later, he presented to the ED with acute epigastric pain, nausea, and vomiting.
- He noted that 3 hours prior to the onset of symptoms, he had ingested one tablet of acetaminophen-codeine (300mg/30mg) for post-surgical pain.
- Social history was unremarkable for alcohol and drug use.
- Initial exam was notable for significant epigastric tenderness.
- Laboratory analysis revealed leukocytosis of 17.9, lipase 1384 U/L, triglycerides 62 mg/dL, calcium 9.8 mg/dL, normal liver function enzymes, and undetectable serum alcohol level.
- MRCP was obtained and demonstrated findings of acute pancreatitis.
- The patient was treated conservatively with IV fluids, bowel rest, morphine for analgesia, and was symptom-free within 24 hours.

## Discussion

- DIAP is an uncommon cause of acute pancreatitis and should be considered after other common etiologies have been excluded.
- The mechanism of codeine-associated pancreatitis is thought to be due to transient sphincter of Oddi constriction and occurs more frequently in patients who had previously undergone cholecystectomy.
- Symptoms of codeine-induced pancreatitis often develop 2-3 hours after drug ingestion and have a milder course when compared to other etiologies of pancreatitis.
- The mechanism of acetaminophen-induced pancreatitis is less clear.
- Acetaminophen-codeine is a commonly prescribed analgesic. Although DIAP is rare, it should be known by its prescribers.

## References

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2. Gagnon AL, Lavoie A, Frigon MP, Michaud-Herbst A, Tremblay K. A Drug-Induced Acute Pancreatitis Retrospective Study. *Can J Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2020 Nov 3;2020:1516493. doi: 10.1155/2020/1516493. PMID: 33204673; PMCID: PMC7655261.

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