

INTRODUCTION

- Common causes of acute pancreatitis (AP) in the United States are gallstone pancreatitis and alcohol use.
- However, about 2% of AP cases are attributed to Drug-induced pancreatitis (DIP).
- Though infrequent, the pathology is associated with substantial morbidity and mortality, which makes timely identification of the inflicting agent important.
- Supplements that enhance athletic performance and libido are commonplace in today's community and remain largely unregulated.
- The lack of understanding and awareness of the detrimental adverse effects of such drugs can affect physical and mental health.

CASE DISCUSSION

- A 51-year-old gentleman with a history of chronic kidney disease Stage II, hyperlipidemia on statin, diverticulosis, and GERD on omeprazole presented to the ER with acute abdominal pain associated with nausea and vomiting for a day.

CASE

- The epigastric pain was described as 10/10 in intensity, sharp with radiation to the back and associated with 3 episodes of non-projectile, bilious, non-bloody vomiting.
- He is a non-smoker and drinks alcohol occasionally, his last drink being a can of beer 1 week prior.
- He denied recent infections, abdominal procedures, or trauma.
- On examination, his vitals were normal, and was in minimal distress.
- Tenderness was elicited in the epigastric region. Initial labs showed leukocytosis with left shift, elevated AST of 225, ALT of 202, LDH of 274, and a significant increase in levels of lipase >3000.
- A CT scan of the abdomen showed findings consistent with acute interstitial pancreatitis.
- Imaging and laboratory investigations were negative for biliary disease and IgG4 disease.
- On asking further history, he reported taking over the counter testosterone supplements to enhance his libido for 2 weeks.
- A diagnosis of DIP was made and was treated appropriately with aggressive hydration and pain management.

DISCUSSION

- DIP is attributed to four classes of drugs (I to IV) and steroids like testosterone are placed under Class I.
- The possible mechanism for causing AP include pancreatic duct constriction, cytotoxic and metabolic effects, accumulation of a toxic metabolite or intermediary, and hypersensitivity reactions.
- Prevalent use of testosterone in the male community for bodybuilding and increasing libido warrant the need to create awareness.
- Additionally, these drugs are difficult to study due to the varied consumption patterns, unknown origin and ingestion of high doses.