

Malignant hyperthermia: A review of a case with delayed onset

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Malignant hyperthermia(MH), albeit a rare genetic disorder can have fatal consequences. This is a case report of a 65-year-old gentleman with Squamous cell carcinoma of the tongue that was planned for an elective operation by the Oral Maxillofacial Surgical (OMFS) team. **Case Description:** Pre-anesthetic assessment revealed that the patient was fit to undergo the operation. On the day of surgery, the patient was induced by the anesthetic team and it was uneventful. He first had a tracheostomy performed and then proceeded to undergo the procedure planned by the OMFS team. However, the patient started to show worrying symptoms of hypercarbia, arrhythmias and increased body temperature four hours after the induction of anesthesia. The treating team attempted to eliminate possible differential diagnoses which included MH. They provided symptomatic relief by cooling the patient with ice cubes, turning off volatile anesthetics and triggering agents while awaiting for adequate supply of IV Dantrolene from nearby hospitals. As there are no confirmatory tests available to diagnose MH in Malaysia, the patient was suspected to have MH due to resolution of symptoms after the administration of IV Dantrolene. The patient was subsequently stabilized and transferred to ICU for continuation of care. **Discussion:** This case is crucial to highlight that more efforts should be undertaken to ensure accessibility of IV Dantrolene in healthcare facilities providing anesthetic services for early administration to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with MH.