

## Postpartum Indomethacin-Associated Psychosis

We would like to describe a case of indomethacin-associated psychosis occurring in the postpartum period very similar to that described by Klassen<sup>1</sup> in the Spring 2001 issue of *CJHP*.

Briefly, a 39-year-old woman delivered a healthy baby at 0454. She had received meperidine 100 mg IM and dimenhydrinate 50 mg IM together at 0030 and 0245 for pain during labour. After the delivery, she received 2 doses of the combination acetaminophen 300 mg, codeine 30 mg, and caffeine 15 mg for pain, one tablet at 0640 and two tablets at 1140. A 100-mg indomethacin suppository was given at 1450 for continuing pain.

At 1545, the woman called for the nurse, stating that she felt awful. Vital signs were as follows: temperature 35.6°C, blood pressure 120/86 mm Hg, and respiratory rate 18 breaths/min. She was jittery, perspiring, and shaky, and complained of chills. Over the next 45 min, her right arm shook, and she felt that she would have a seizure. She did not want to go to sleep and stated that she feared that she was going to die. Aware of the previous report linking indomethacin with this type of reaction, the pharmacist and nurse offered continuing reassurance, and at 1630, although still symptomatic, the patient was calmer. By 1845 her condition was much

improved, with no tremors and only a general feeling of weakness.

The next morning she felt fine, although she was still tired. She did not recall much of the reaction, including the time that the pharmacist and nurse had spent with her. She reported that she had taken acetylsalicylic acid and ibuprofen in the past without adverse reaction. The day after delivery she twice received 2 tablets of the acetaminophen–codeine–caffeine combination without incident.

We thank Klassen and *CJHP* for publishing the case report.<sup>1</sup> Of note was the very similar timeline in that report and in our situation. Prior knowledge of this unusual reaction helped greatly in our care of this patient. It was reassuring for staff to know that this reaction had been described before and that it had been linked to indomethacin. As well, our reassurance and explanation during and after the reaction helped the family to cope with the symptoms.

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### Reference

1. Klassen LJ. Psychotic reaction associated with postpartum use of indomethacin. *Can J Hosp Pharm* 2001;54:37-9.