Suxamethonium Apnoea: The Forgotten Episode in Current Practice

Mahesh M Chandrashekaraiah, MBBS, MD, DESA, FCAI*
Batool Abdulla AlMoallem, MB, Bch, BAO** Danalakshmee Curpanen MB, Bch, BAO**
Shahid Adeel, MBBS, FFARCSI***

We present the first case in Bahrain of suxamethonium apnea in a parturient for an emergency Cesarian section. Immediate onset of action, optimal intubating conditions and rapid recovery are the key features that promote the use of suxamethonium. Suxamethonium apnea is critical and occurs in patients with pseudocholinesterase (PChE) deficiency either inherited or due to an acquired cause. Early suspicion of suxamethonium apnea and appropriate management with adequate sedation and mechanical ventilation whilst waiting for spontaneous recovery are all essential for a successful outcome.

* Registrar Anesthesia and Pain Medicine

** Intern

**** Consultant, Anesthesia and Intensive Care

Department of Anesthesia

King Hamad University Hospital

The Kingdom of Bahrain

E-mail: mahesh.c@khuh.org.bh