

Licorice-induced Hypokalemic Myopathy

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- Abstract -

Licorice is widely used as a Chinese(herbal) medicine. The glycyrrhizin, a main ingredient of the natural licorice, has a potent mineralocorticoid effect which may cause severe hypokalemia and muscle paralysis. We present a 60-year-old woman, who had been ingesting one or two spoonful of licorice powder daily for about one year, developed acute flaccid quadriplegia with high levels of serum muscle enzymes and the typical features of mineralocorticoid excess such as severe hypokalemia and metabolic alkalosis. Both plasma renin activity and serum aldosterone level were below the normal values. This case indicates that licorice-induced hypokalemic myopathy should be considered in the differential diagnosis of a patient with acute quadriplegia and hypokalemia.

Key Words : Licorice, Glycyrrhizin, Glycyrrhetic acid, Hypokalemic myopathy, Pseudoaldosteronism

glycyrrhizin
가

60 가 2

. Cayley¹가 1950 가 가

2

가 . 가

60 가

2 ~ 3

:

2가 85

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1
1~2 가
manidipine 10
mg
150/80
mmHg, 가 96/min, 37.2 ,
가 24/min
MRC grade II, MRC grade IV

가 11,600/μ(4.000 ~
10.000/μ) , 142 mEq/L
(135~145 mEq/L), 1.8 mEq/L(
3.5~5.5 mEq/L), 257 mg/dl(70~110
mg/dl), AST(SGOT)/ALT(SGPT)가 126/115
IU/L(40 IU/L), creatine kinase(CK)가
3488 IU/L(26~200 IU/L), LDH가 634
IU/L(120~520 IU/L), 5.8 g/dl(
6.7~8.3 g/dl), 3.3 g/dl(3.8~5.3
g/dl) myoglobin . renin
0.01 ng/ml/h (0.15~2.33 ng/ml/h),
aldosterone 1.0 ng/dl (1.0~16.0 ng/dl)
가 pH 7.58, pCO₂ 42.5
mmHg, pO₂ 68.5 mmHg, HCO₃⁻ 39.2 mmol/L,
95.1%

1000 mg/dl, 72 mg/dl ,
myoglobin . 24
125 mEq/day, 44 mEq/day .
U 가

2 ,
(first dorsal interosse-
ous muscle) , (de-
toid muscle) (vastus lateralis muscle)
(fibrillation) (positive
sharp wave)가
(polyphasic motor unit potential)
가 (early recruitment)
(full or complete interference pattern)

4 (vastus lateralis muscle)
(internal nucleus) 가, (intersti-
tium)

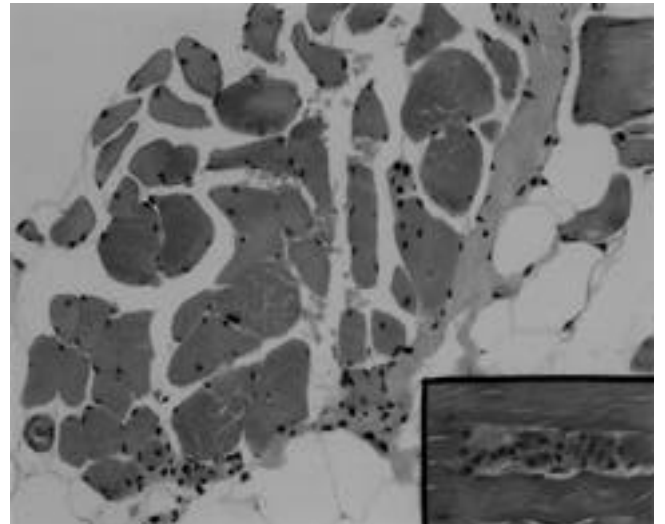


Figure 1. Microscopically, muscle biopsy shows mild size varia-
tion and atrophy of myofibers with focal segmental
degeneration(inset)(H & E, ×100; inset, ×200).

(Fig. 1).
가
2
3 가 (, 2.3 mEq/L), 7
(, 4.8 mEq/L). 10 CK 101
IU/L . 15
1946 Revers²가
20 %
(miner-
alocorticoid) 가 . Cayley¹
1950 para-aminosalicylic
acid(PAS) 2
PAS 가 가
, PAS
Cayley PAS
PAS 가
가 1951
Strong³ .
1992 Shintani⁴ 59
가 32.2%

27.1% . 1.98
 mEq/L, CK 5,386 IU/L, aldosterone
 2.92 ng/dl(: 2.0 ~ 13.0 ng/dl),
 renin 0.17 ng/ml/h(:
 0.8 ~ 4.4 ng/ml/h) 17
 (phagocytosis)
 59 57

Shintani

glycyrrhizin
 . Revers² glycyrrhizin
 glycyrrhetic acid가
 가 . glycyrrhetic
 acid desoxycorticosterone
 Conn⁵ .
 가 (licorice-induced pseudoal-
 dosteronism) . glycyrrhizin
 glycyrrhetic
 acid가
 6,
 7
 가 가 가
 8
 가 2.0 mEq/L

가 가
 가
 (barium) , (renal tubular acido-
 sis), ,
 9,10 Ampo-
 tericin B, , (laxatives)
 11
 가
 가
 가 가

2

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