



ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY INDUCED BY HERBAL MEDICINE COMMONLY USED IN KINSHASA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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BACKGROUND

Herbal medicine use as alternative medicine is associated with increased risk of acute kidney disease.

OBJECTIVE

To determine the prevalence of and assess causality of herbal medicine-induced AKI in clinical setting.

METHODS

To determine the prevalence of and assess the causality of herbal medicine-induced AKI, we retrospectively reviewed medical charts of patients admitted at the Division of Nephrology of the University of Kinshasa Hospital from 2004 to 2009. AKI was defined as serum creatinine ≥ 2 mg/dl or rapid onset oligo-anuria. Causality assessment was evaluated using the French method.

RESULTS

The diagnosis of AKI was present in 393 (38.4 %) of 1,016 patients admitted during the study period. It was related to nephrotoxicity and attributed to herbal medicine in 201 (19.6 %) and 154 (15 %) patients, respectively.

According to French method of imputability applied to 154 patients with herbal medicine attributed AKI, the causal correlation between AKI and herbal medicine use was 76 %. The majority of patients received conservative therapy and the case fatality was 25 %.

CONCLUSION

Herbal medicine use in the present case series was associated with AKI and having a good prognosis.

Keywords: Acute kidneys injury, herbal medicine, commonly used

