Brain & Development 41 (2019) 740

BRAIN & DEVELOPMENT
Official Journal of the Japanese Society of Child Neurology

www.elsevier.com/locate/braindev

Letter to the Editor

The risk of hypoglycemia and the ketogenic diet for super-refractory status epilepticus patients

Keywords: Ketogenic diet; Epilepsy; Hypoglycemia

We read with interest the review article by Park et al. "The ketogenic diet for super-refractory status epilepticus patients in intensive care units" published online in the Brain & Development [1]. The authors retrospectively reviewed the medical records of 16 children with super-refractory status epilepticus (SRSE), who were treated with the ketogenic diet (KD) in the intensive care unit of the hospital. The authors concluded that their experience indicates that the KD is an effective alternative therapeutic strategy for SRSE patients in ICUs with adequate efficacy and safety in reducing seizure frequency. Although we agree with most of the authors' experience we would like to put one question.

Hypoglycemia is one of the common side effects of KD used in the treatment of patients with drug-resistant epilepsy [2] and also super-refractory status epilepticus [3]. The authors stated that regular glucose monitoring was part of the treatment protocol, but hypoglycemia was not mentioned among the side effects of the therapy. Could they state what the definition of hypoglycemia was, and its management in the protocol and whether no hypoglycemia was detected in the patients during the treatment? We believe that such information will add substantially to the results of their important study.

Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Dion Pritchard for language editing.

Conflict of interest statement

The authors declared no conflict of interest.

Compliance with ethical standards

This article does not contain any studies with human participants or animals performed by any of the authors.

Funding.
No funding resources were used.

Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at https://doi.org/10.1016/j.braindev.2019.02.008.

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Received 4 February 2019; accepted 12 February 2019

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.braindev.2019.02.008