URINARY OSMOLALITY: CREATININE RATIO OF SPOT URINE SAMPLES RELATES TO BODY HYDRATION STATUS

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The objectives of the study were to establish (i) The consistency /inconsistency of early morning spot urine osmolality: creatinine ratio (O: C) in healthy subjects on repeated measurements (ii) the influence of water loading on O: C (iii) the influence of organophosphate (OP) poisoning on O: C.

Healthy volunteers (n=30) adequately hydrated (a), a similar group of subjects (n=21) (b), and 32 OP poisoned patients in the ICU (c) were used for the 3 phases, (i, ii, iii) of this study. Early morning spot urine samples collected on 4 consecutive days from group (a), spot urine samples collected before and hourly intervals up to 3 hours after 1.0 l of water loading (group (b)) and catheter urine samples of ventilated OP poisoned patients (group (c)) were analyzed for osmolality and creatinine concentration.

Group (a) healthy subjects showed a mean O:C ratio of 66.6 mosmol.kg⁻¹/mmol.l⁻¹ (mean osmolality = 534.0 mosmol.kg⁻¹, mean creatinine = 9.89 mmol.l⁻¹) and this was consistent on the 4 days. Group (b) healthy subjects showed diminishing values for osmolality and creatinine concentration after water loading. However, the O: C ratio increased from the basal value and remained elevated at 3 hours. The mean O: C ratios before and 1, ,2, 3 hours after water loading were 72.72, 96.4, 106.4, 85.93 mosmol.kg/mmol.l⁻¹. This increase was significant at 1 and 2 hours after water loading. The 32 OP poisoned patients showed a mean O: C ratio of 110.8 mosmol.kg⁻¹/mmol.l⁻¹ (mean osmolality = 352.30 mosmol.kg⁻¹, mean creatinine concentration = 4.11 mmol.l⁻¹). Of the OP poisoned group a subgroup of compatible age (20-30 yr) patients (n = 8) showed a mean O:C ratio of 100.7 mosmolkg⁻¹/mmoll⁻¹ on the first day of poisoning which was significantly different from the early morning spot urine O:C ratio of normal subjects (66.63) (p = 0.01).

Results indicated that in adequately hydrated healthy subjects, the spot urine sample is adequate in estimating body hydration status. This was reinforced by the water-loading test in which O: C ratio increased with increasing hydration, promptly in 1 hour.