

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION ΣΥΝΕΧΙΖΟΜΕΝΗ ΙΑΤΡΙΚΗ ΕΚΠΑΙΔΕΥΣΗ

Acid-Base Balance-Electrolyte Quiz – Case 48

A 75-year-old man developed nausea, vomiting, confusion and lethargy two hours after transurethral resection of the prostate for benign prostatic hyperplasia (under spinal anesthesia).

The patient's symptoms may be ascribed:

- a. To the development of hyponatremia
- b. To the development of hypernatremia
- c. To stroke as a complication of the procedure
- d. To the procedure-induced infection

Comment

The patient exhibited the transurethral resection of prostate (TURP) syndrome, commonly associated with dilutional acute hypo-

natremia (and hypo-osmolality) and its consequences (neurologic symptoms due to cerebral edema). The syndrome is due to the excessive absorption of large amounts of electrolyte-free irrigation fluids resulting in dilutional hyponatremia. Early diagnosis of the syndrome is of paramount importance for the proper management of patients. It should be mentioned that hyponatremia should be aggressively treated in these patients.

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