

Abstract

Cushing Syndrome is a collection of clinical abnormalities due to glucocorticoid excess as a result of excess adrenal cortisol production or exogenous long-term glucocorticoid therapy. Cushing's disease is the second most common cause after exogenous steroid therapy. Severe cases of Cushing syndrome can be life-threatening due to infections and thromboembolic risk. We present a case of severe Cushing syndrome due to Cushing's disease.

The patient is a 24-year-old previously healthy male University student who has been in Australia for the last 3 years presented with generalized body weakness, facial and dependent edema easy bruising without any sinister complaints. On examination he had features of Cushing syndrome and investigations revealed severe form of Cushing Syndrome secondary to Cushing's disease and he was successfully treated with intravenous Etomidate infusion to rapidly control his cortisol levels prior to definitive surgery.

Cushing Syndrome can be life threatening in the severe form due to complications. In such cases rapid control of cortisol level is mandatory to prevent complications. Etomidate is a recognized safe drug to bring cortisol levels rapidly to safe levels. Even though it is often difficult to achieve all of treatment targets 100% accurately multidisciplinary approach will solve most of the difficulties most often.
