

Abstract

Introduction Scleroderma renal crisis is a life threatening complication of systemic sclerosis and characteristically presents as a hypertensive emergency. prompt appropriate management with angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor and supportive measures are critically important to prevent morbidity and mortality.

Case presentation Middle aged female with evolving systemic sclerosis presented with subacute progressive dyspnea and altered conscious level developing over 24 hours. Severe hypertension causing encephalopathy, renal impairment and pulmonary oedema was diagnosed and treated with captopril and supportive measures, which lead to prompt clinical improvement. Other causes of renal impairment and severe hypertension were ruled out and scleroderma renal crisis was diagnosed.

Conclusions Scleroderma renal crisis presents with hypertensive emergency and multiorgan dysfunction. Captopril is the mainstay of treatment and helps to prevent progression to end stage kidney disease and death.