Interaction of food supplement L-carnitine with oral anticoagulant acenocoumarol

Hans Ulrich Bachmann, Andreas Hoffmann

Case report

A 33 year old man had a St Jude mechanical aortic valve prosthesis inserted for severe aortic valve regurgitation. He was on oral anticoagulation for one year without any further medication with stable INR values between 1.99 and 2.94 on a mean dose of acenocoumarol of 3.4 mg/d.

An unexpected rise of INR to 4.65 which was observed again despite a dose correction was the reason for a detailed questioning on food intake. There was no change of the anticoagulant dose. Apart from his normal and unchanged diet the patient reported taking a formula drink containing pure L-carnitine (Maximize®, advanced nutrition technology) for exogenous carnitine supplementation are between 1 and several g/day.

There is one earlier report of potentiation of acenocoumarol by carnitine in the literature [6], thus confirmed by our observation 10 years later. The mechanism of interaction is still unknown. A clinical study in healthy volunteers is now clearly indicated. According to further findings it may be justified to press manufacturers of products containing carnitine to place an appropriate warning in their package inserts, as well as to spread the information among medical practitioners caring for patients on anticoagulant therapy.

References

What Swiss Medical Weekly has to offer:

- SMW’s impact factor has been steadily rising, to the current 1.537
- Open access to the publication via the Internet, therefore wide audience and impact
- Rapid listing in Medline
- LinkOut-button from PubMed with link to the full text website http://www.smw.ch (direct link from each SMW record in PubMed)
- No-nonsense submission – you submit a single copy of your manuscript by e-mail attachment
- Peer review based on a broad spectrum of international academic referees
- Assistance of our professional statistician for every article with statistical analyses
- Fast peer review, by e-mail exchange with the referees
- Prompt decisions based on weekly conferences of the Editorial Board
- Prompt notification on the status of your manuscript by e-mail
- Professional English copy editing
- No page charges and attractive colour offprints at no extra cost

The many reasons why you should choose SMW to publish your research

Editorial Board
Prof. Jean-Michel Dayer, Geneva
Prof. Peter Gehr, Berne
Prof. André P. Perruchoud, Basel
Prof. Andreas Schaffner, Zurich
(Chief Editor)
Prof. Werner Straub, Berne
Prof. Ludwig von Segesser, Lausanne

International Advisory Committee
Prof. K. E. Juhani Airaksinen, Turku, Finland
Prof. Anthony Bayes de Luna, Barcelona, Spain
Prof. Hubert E. Blum, Freiburg, Germany
Prof. Walter E. Haefeli, Heidelberg, Germany
Prof. Nino Kuenzli, Los Angeles, USA
Prof. René Lutter, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Prof. Claude Martin, Marseille, France
Prof. Josef Patsch, Innsbruck, Austria
Prof. Luigi Tavazzi, Pavia, Italy

We evaluate manuscripts of broad clinical interest from all specialties, including experimental medicine and clinical investigation.

We look forward to receiving your paper!

Guidelines for authors:
http://www.smw.ch/set_authors.html

Impact factor Swiss Medical Weekly

EMH Swiss Medical Publishers Ltd.
SMW Editorial Secretariat
Farnburgerstrasse 8
CH-4132 Muttenz

Manuscripts: submission@smw.ch
Letters to the editor: letters@smw.ch
Editorial Board: red@smw.ch
Internet: http://www.smw.ch