

## Reviewer's report

**Title:** Intrathecal baclofen withdrawal syndrome- a life threatening complication of baclofen pump: A case report

**Version: 2 Date:** 19 May 2004

**Reviewer:** Subramanian Vaidyanathan

### Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

The authors do not present any new treatment for baclofen withdrawal syndrome. This case report contains no innovative method for managing patients, who suffer from sudden withdrawal of intrathecal baclofen. Therefore, I do not recommend this manuscript for publication.

I believe that the following aspects will be of great interest to health professionals, who care for persons receiving intrathecal baclofen therapy.

1. How did the error occur?
2. Who stopped the baclofen pump?
3. Did this person, who stopped the pump, undergo adequate training in programming baclofen pump?
4. What is the current organisational strategy in the authors' hospital for training health professionals, who care for the patients with intrathecal baclofen therapy?
5. Obviously, the present strategy, which is in force in the authors' set-up to prevent errors while programming baclofen pump, appears to be inadequate. What steps did the authors take to prevent similar mishaps in future?
6. The authors should implement the corrective steps to prevent such serious mishaps as well as system errors. They should follow-up for a minimum duration of 12 months. Then the authors should carry out an audit to see whether the steps implemented by them to prevent serious mishaps in refilling baclofen pump and programming baclofen pump, are effective.
7. If the steps implemented by them are found to be insufficient in preventing mishaps, (e.g. near-miss accidents still occurred while filling the baclofen pump and programming the baclofen pump, during the observational period of 12 months), the authors may have to consider amending their original care pathway and include additional safety measures.
8. After a further follow-up of 6-12 months, the authors should satisfy themselves that the safety measures, which they implemented, are indeed effective. They can then submit their experience in preventing mishaps related to refilling and programming of baclofen pump for publication. Other health professionals will be interested in the algorithm and practical advice, developed by these authors. Of course, the patients, who receive intrathecal baclofen therapy, are likely to be benefited by such remedial steps taken to prevent mishaps while refilling baclofen pump and programming the baclofen pump.

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

**What next?:** Reject because too small an advance to publish in any journal

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

None