A case of diabetic ketoacidosis complicated by severe combined dyslipidemia in a patient on a low-carbohydrate diet.

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Introduction

Low-carbohydrate diet is an effective method for treating obese diabetic patient. However, there is a possible concern that diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) develops when a patient with insulin deficiency conducts carbohydrate restriction.

Case Presentation

A 44-year-old man was admitted to our hospital because of DKA. He was diagnosed with diabetes 6 years before admission. Two years before admission, he was admitted to a hospital and started an extreme low-carbohydrate diet with oral hypoglycemic agents. Two months before admission, his glucose control worsened. Although anti-GAD antibody was positive, insulin therapy was not started. Two days before admission, upper abdominal pain and general malaise appeared, followed by consciousness disturbance. On examination, height was 163 cm, weight was 48.8 kg. Consciousness was II-20 in JCS. Blood pressure was 139/75 mmHg, and pulse rate was 110/min. Respiration rate was 19/min. There were no abnormalities in the chest and abdomen. Laboratory tests showed high blood glucose (931 mg/dL) and high anion gap metabolic acidosis. His total, LDL, HDL cholesterol and triglyceride levels were 476, 348, 62 and 329 mg/dL respectively. He was treated with intravenous administration of insulin and saline. Temporarily after recovery, he refused to take carbohydrate and insulin injection. Serum lipids improved to LDL-C 200 mg / dL and TG 143 mg / dL at the discharge.

Discussion

In this case, positive anti-GAD antibody meets the diagnostic criteria for slowly progressive type 1 diabetes. DKA probably resulted from extreme low-carb diet in insulin deficient state. This patient did not satisfy the diagnostic criteria for familial hypercholesterolemia. As the lipid levels improved during hospitalization, it was speculated that the effect of replacing the dietary carbohydrate with animal fat.