Author’s response to reviews

Title: Ketoacidosis due to low-carb diet in a non-diabetic lactating female: A case report.

Authors:

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Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear editor and referees,

Thanks a lot for your valuable comments and suggestions to improve the manuscript! See below for a point-by-point response to the concerns.

Referee 1:

No concerns.

Referee 2:

Do you believe the case report is authentic?: "No. In this paper, authors reported a case who suffered from ketoacidosis during lactating period. But Severe LCHF diet can occur ketoacidosis with or without lactation (N Engl J Med 2006, 354, 97-98) (Lancet 2006, 367, 958). Furthermore, people with some kinds of mild genetic failure concerning ketone utilization can occur ketoacidosis during carbohydrate restriction (SCOT; J Clin Invest 1972, 51, 493-498) (ACAT1; Pediatr Res 1973, 7, 149-160) (MCT1; N Engl J Med 2014, 371, 1900-1907). If authors emphasize lactation is a trigger of ketoacidosis in this case, they should show (1) amount of carbohydrate intake of this case and (2) genetic background concerning ketone utilization. Although I cannot read French, there is a case report of ketoacidosis during lactation. Please refer it (Monnier D, et al. Starvation ketosis in a breastfeeding woman. Rev Med Interne 2015, Epub Apr 22)"

Response: The amount of carbohydrate, highlighted in yellow, has been added to the text.

We believe that the ketoacidosis in our case is caused by the increased demands during lactation, normally compensated for by increased intake but not in this case due to low-carb diet. The genetic background concerning ketone utilization is unfortunately not known in our case. However, that is not the case in common practice either. When a woman considers to start on a low-carb diet during lactation
she does not know her individual ability to utilize ketones. Therefore we think that our case presentation is of general interest. The text has been modified.

The important references in Lancet and The New England Journal of Medicine have been added to the reference list.

The very interesting paper by Monnier et al, published after our submission, describes a different clinical situation with the development of metabolic acidosis due to bariatric surgery during lactation. The text, as well as the reference list, has been updated accordingly.

Was written informed consent to publish this case obtained?: “No”

Response: Written informed consent to publish this case was in fact, as stated in the text, obtained on 18 November 2014.

Additional comments to authors?: “In this paper, authors reported a case who suffered from ketoacidosis during lactating period. But Severe LCHF diet can occur ketoacidosis with or without lactation (N Engl J Med 2006, 354, 97-98) (Lancet 2006, 367, 958). Furthermore, people with some kinds of mild genetic failure concerning ketone utilization can occur ketoacidosis during carbohydrate restriction (SCOT; J Clin Invest 1972, 51, 493-498) (ACAT1; Pediatr Res 1973, 7, 149-160) (MCT1; N Engl J Med 2014, 371, 1900-1907). If authors emphasize lactation is a trigger of ketoacidosis in this case, they should show (1) amount of carbohydrate intake of this case and (2) genetic background concerning ketone utilization. Although I cannot read French, there is a case report of ketoacidosis during lactation. Please refer it (Monnier D, et al. Starvation ketosis in a breastfeeding woman. Rev Med Interne 2015, Epub Apr 22)”

Response: Please see previous response since the comment is a copy of the one above.

Magnus Ekelund

MD, PhD