

The Use of Anticonvulsants in the Treatment and Prevention of Eclampsia

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Magnesium sulphate is now the drug of choice in treating eclampsia. Whether diazepam is as effective as magnesium sulphate in treating single convulsion is not clear. Standard administration of magnesium sulphate and close monitoring are important to ensure safety. If there is acute renal failure or if magnesium sulphate fails to control fit, giving diazepam is an alternative. Selective use of prophylactic anticonvulsant is more appropriate than routine use. If women are at substantial risk of developing eclampsia in the antepartum period, the practice of delaying to start anticonvulsant until the postpartum period should be revised. (HKJGOM 2000; 1:58-60)

Keywords : eclampsia, anticonvulsant, magnesium sulphate, diazepam
