University Hospitals of North Midlands

## Which Calcium is best in pediatric resuscitation!! Calcium Chloride versus Calcium Gluconate for the treatment of hypocalcemia in acute setting - An evidence based systematic review Dr A Janjanam<sup>1</sup> (MD Ped, IDPCCM), Dr C Kanaris<sup>2</sup> (FRCPCH FFICM PHD)

Introduction

A 2-year-old girl with severe Group A streptococcal septic shock had persistent refractory hypocalcaemia despite multiple corrections with calcium gluconate which prompted us to do a literature search.

#### **Objectives**

To review the evidence comparing therapeutic efficacy of calcium gluconate with calcium chloride in treating acute hypocalcemia in emergency setting.

To Review the physiological and pharmacokinetic factors influencing the rapidity of rise in ionized calcium.



Calcium gluconate Extravasation Calcium chloride Extravasation

# Methods

Medical Literature search bases we used include Cochrane library. Embase and Medline OVID interface.

### Results Meta CALCIUM CHLORIDE analysis 10% of RCTs

Calcium gluconate is historically believed to have lower bioavailability in shock, arrest & liver failure due to its hepatic metabolism to release i.ca.

Calcium chloride supposedly has better ionisation rates.



#### Critically ill pediatric patients Broner et al with hypocalcaemia 1.25 Mean increase in i.ca in mmol/l (p<0.05) 1.2 calciu m CaCl2 group - 0.19 1.15 pretreatment Ca.Gluc group - 0.09 1.1 calcium post 1.05 Cacl2 group showed treatment increase in Mean BP 1 while no change with 0.95 Ca.gluc (p<0.05) CaCL2 Ca.Gluc Martin et al Adult patients during During anhepatic stage, increase in i.ca anhepatic phase of was similar with both Ca.Gluc & CaCl2 liver transplant Cote et al Pediatric patients Ca.Gluc is as rapid and equivalent as

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intraop & CaCl2 in releasing i.ca. conditioned dogs under halothane anesthesia

Anesthetized ferrets Ionization of Ca.Gluc is as great as that Heining et al and human blood. of CaCl2.

#### Conclusions

Available pharmacokinetic evidence is mixed.

Ca.Gluc may not require hepatic metabolism . In eucalcemic state ,ionization rates are similar for both CaCL2 and Ca.Gluc.

CaCl2 is superior to Ca. Gluc in treating hypocalcaemia in critically ill children as per existing evidence.

Peripheral extravasation injuries are worse with CaCl2.

CaCl2 is probably the preferred agent for treating refractory hypocalcaemia in acute setting when central IV access available.

Need for more paediatric RCTs to determine the therapeutic efficacy of either agent. References

Broner CW, et al, Prospective, Randomized, **Double-Blind Comparison of Calcium Chloride** and Calcium Gluconate Therapies for Hypocalcemia in Critically III Children