

Benztropine for the treatment of intractable hiccups: new indication for an old drug?

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Abstract:

This is a report of the case of a 55 year old male who presented to the Emergency Department with a 12 day history of intractable hiccups that responded dramatically to one dose of benztropine 2mg. IM (after having proved refractory to numerous other medications and techniques).

Comments:

Strengths: This is an interesting report of a novel treatment for a difficult symptom. A logical theory based on sound pathophysiological principles is presented.

Weaknesses: Few conclusions can be drawn from one case.

Relevance to Palliative Care:

Hiccups, a difficult symptom frequently seen in palliative care patients, has no clearly effective treatment yet established.