Case report: prehospital use of intranasal ketamine for pediatric burn injury

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ABSTRACT
In this study, the administration of an intravenous ketamine formulation to the nasal mucosa of a pediatric burn victim is described in the prehospital environment. Effective analgesia was achieved without the need for vascular or osseous access. Intranasal ketamine has been previously described for chronic pain and anesthetic premedication. This case highlights its potential as an option for prehospital analgesia.

We report the prehospital use of intranasal ketamine in a pediatric burns case.

A 9-year-old boy rode a motorcycle into a pipe from a water heating system, fracturing the pipe and causing his lower torso to be exposed to a jet of steam. A physician-paramedic-staffed helicopter emergency medical service was activated for clinical and access reasons.

Locating the patient required a 120 km flight, winching of the crew because of lack of a safe landing area, and a 1 km ride in a four-wheel-drive utility vehicle. The child was consequently first examined 67 min after the medical team activation and had been held under a cold shower for >1 h.

Examination revealed a patent airway, 20 respirations per minute with normal symmetrical breath sounds, heart rate of 94 beats per minute and non-invasive blood pressure of 110/60 mm Hg. Oxygen saturations were 98% breathing room air, and the central capillary re...
the prehospital emergency environment to further delineate optimal dose range and side effect profile.

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Competing interests None.

Patient consent Obtained.

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