Oxalate-induced encephalitis after infusions of sugar surrogates.

The case of a 55-year-old female with oxalate-induced lethal encephalitis following infusions of sugar surrogates is reported. Renal failure and subsequent central coma developed following the use of xylitol, fructose and sorbitol above the recommended dosages. The patient died due to raised intracranial pressure. Cerebral damage was caused by encephalitis due to calcium oxalate crystals. Oxalosis induced by sugar surrogates may be explained either by dose-dependent toxic effects or genetically fixed intolerance.
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