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Methemoglobinemia as a Rare Complication During a Transesophageal Echocardiogram

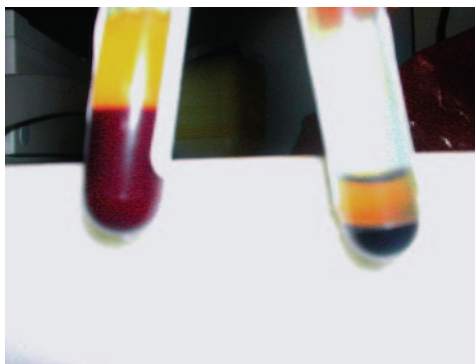
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gap” of 15% between the pulsoximeter and the blood sample readings. Methemoglobinemia was suspected and later confirmed by blood levels. Methylene blue (70 mg) in a solution given intravenously over 15 minutes was used for reversal with excellent results. (The recommended dose is 1 to 2 mg/kg intravenously administered over several minutes.) This is believed to be a reaction to the local anesthetic spray, 20% benzocaine.

Disclosures

None.



Dark-colored “chocolate brown” blood sample withdrawn from the femoral artery (right tube) of the patient compared with his blood after recovery (left tube).

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