

# Letter to the Editor

## Tramadol intoxication and shoulder pain

Dear Editor,

An unconscious 21-year-old male was brought to our emergency room (ER) three hours after ingesting 2 g of tramadol and 400 mg of methadone. He had one episode of generalized tonic-clonic seizure before arriving to the ER. After regaining of consciousness, the patient complained from pain in his right shoulder. Anterior dislocation of the patient's shoulder was confirmed on plain x-ray (Figure 1).

One of the complications of tramadol use, abuse, or overdose is generalized tonic-clonic seizure<sup>1</sup>. Anterior dislocation of the shoulder following epileptic seizures is more usual than the posterior type<sup>2,4</sup>. Also, it has been stated that despite the posterior dislocation, anterior dislocation of the shoulder needs regular follow-up to detect any recurrent shoulder instability for which the treatment will involve skeletal reconstruction<sup>2</sup>. This case highlights that the suspicion of shoulder dislocation should arise in every tramadol-intoxicated patient who complains of pain or stiffness of the shoulder after a seizure.



Figure 1. The patient's right shoulder X-ray.

### Conflict of Interest

The author declares that he has no conflict of interests.

### References

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