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Mental Illness Driven Amphetamine Overdose

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Introduction: This case presentation is of a 30-year-old female who presented to the emergency department (ED) unconscious and breathing shallow at a Metro-Atlanta hospital due to a suspected drug overdose. **Case Presentation:** A 30-year-old female presented to the ED unconscious with shallow breathing. The patient did not have a patent airway and was intubated in the ED due to unsuccessful attempts by EMS. Her past medical history includes diabetes mellitus, bipolar affective disorder, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, depression, suicidal tendencies, substance, and alcohol abuse. Diagnosis on admission was drug overdose.

Discussion: The patient was admitted to the ICU and placed on mechanical ventilation. Once removed from mechanical ventilation, the patient began to experience hallucinations and mood swings secondary to her bipolar affective disorder. The patient became increasingly agitated and started to present with symptoms of psychosis as the patient began to come off of heavy sedation. The patient's psychosis was treated, however, she was not prescribed Adderall, the amphetamine to treat her ADHD, due to her overdosing on this agent. The patient has an extensive social history of illicit drug and alcohol use. This may be due to the patient's history of bipolar affective disorder, in which mood and attitude change can range from normal to extreme. The patient was transferred to a psychiatric facility for further evaluation. Counseling and education on mental illness as well as rehabilitation for substance abuse is integral to ensure patients who suffer from these disorders are able to take care of themselves properly.