

### **IS THERE A ROLE FOR ACETAMINOPHEN IN THE MANAGEMENT OF HYPERTHERMIA IN POISONED PATIENTS?**

*To the editor:* I read with interest the case presented by Ho and colleagues published in your journal.<sup>1</sup> They described the course of a levothyroxine-overdosed pediatric patient and reviewed the treatment options for such overdoses. They treated the patient's fever using acetaminophen. It is important to note, with respect to the etiology and severity, that toxicity-induced hyperthermia is generally treated by active external cooling,

administration of benzodiazepines and/or barbiturates, and intubation with paralysis if necessary. Acetaminophen appears to have no role in the management of hyperthermia in the poisoned patient.<sup>2</sup> It seems from Ho and colleagues' article that there is an indication for the administration of acetaminophen in the hyperthermic overdose patient: when the hyperthermia has been induced by thyroid replacement medications.<sup>3</sup>

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### **References**

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3. Thyroid and antithyroid medications. In: Hoffman RS, Nelson LS, Howland MA, et al, editors. *Goldfrank's manual of toxicologic emergencies*. 1st ed. New York: McGraw-Hill; 2007. p. 428-33.