

Postgastrectomy reduced acuity visual with thiamine deficiency and alcohol abuse

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Introduction: Thiamine deficiency (TD), which is widely forgotten by physicians, can result in peripheral neuropathy, heart failure and Wernicke-Korsakoff syndrome. It must be considered in patients with decreased intake of thiamine, caused by consumption of high-carbohydrate and low-thiamine diets, chronic alcoholism, anorexia nervosa or hyperemesis gravidarum. **Methods:** A case report of an adult patient, male, 41 years-old, who had been under gone gastrectomy by cancer for 7 years, in Gastroenterology Cancer Division, Albert Einstein Hospital, São Paulo, Brazil. He had memory, ataxia and acuity visual problems for 4 years, when he was diagnosed with TD. His clinical symptoms became more severe when he started drinking alcohol every night, for 1 year. He has never taken B1 vitamin supplements regularly. **Results:** The cause of TD was associated with gastrectomy to treat cancer and alcohol abuse. We prescribed a high dose of intravenous (100 mg) and oral (25 mg) thiamine for 14 days, and after that his acuity, ataxia and memory improved. **Conclusion:** TD must be considered as a possible cause of reduced acuity visual and it mostly is associated to alcohol abuse. TD must be considered in the differential diagnosis for gastric surgical patients who have sudden visual loss.