Sudden Cardiac Death After Taking Chinese-Han Herbal Medicine for Sexual Dysfunction

Ahmet Göktuğ Ertem¹, Mehmet Erdoğan², Serkan Sivri², Gamze Zengin², Engin Bozkurt²

¹ Department of Cardiology, Türkiye Yüksek İhtisas Training and Research Hospital, Ankara, Turkey
² Department of Cardiology, Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Ankara, Turkey
Introduction
A 54-year-old man was presented to emergency department with loss of consciousness by ambulance staff. Electrocardiography (ECG) revealed asystolic pattern and his blood pressure (BP) was unmeasurable (0/0 mmHg). Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) was performed for 45 minutes, but none of the vital signs returned. His family questioned for his past medical history. His medical history was remarkable for coronary artery disease with stent implantation before 3 months and smoking. He has taken a herbal medication (Chinese-Han) which contains aweto, deer antler and broomrape, for sexual dysfunction in the morning of event (Figure 1A-B). This is known fact that the patients suffer from sexual dysfunction after occurring coronary artery disease especially with beta blocker usage. Inhibitors of phosphodiesterase (sildenafil, vardenafil etc.) and herbal-traditional medicine is used for sexual dysfunction by patients. For usage of herbal-traditional medicine, taking consultation of doctors should be essential. Public awareness should be created by social media, television, and internet.

Figure 1. The package photo of herbal medicine