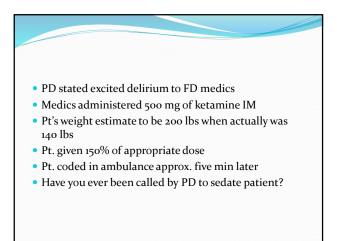
COLORADO PARAMEDICS CONVICTED OF FELONIES: A WHOLE NEW MEANING TO CYA

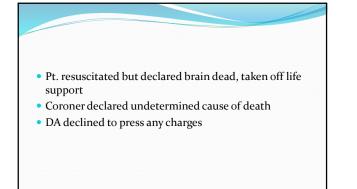
Barry Smith EMT-P Ret.

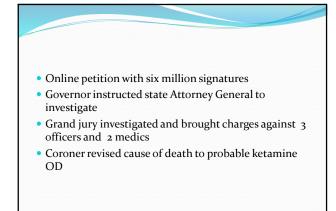
1

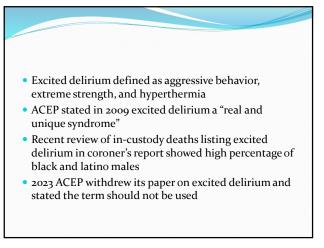
• 2019

- What happened:
- Aurora, CO PD called for suspicious person
- Struggle began in less than 60 seconds
- Choke hold applied
- FD called to sedate person





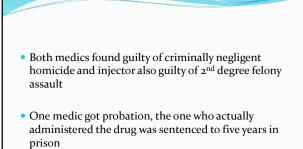




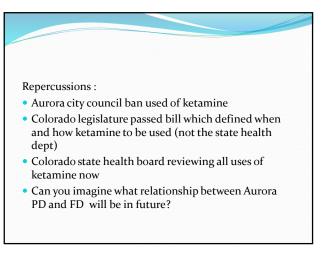


- At trial, in 2023, police officers testified that their use of choke hold did not kill patient. Medics killed patient with ketamine
- Medics testified they used the medication as per their protocol
- Testimony stated that patient seemed coherent and was answering questions of medics while being held face down by officers

7



Judge later reduced five year sentence to time served in 2024. Less than a year served.

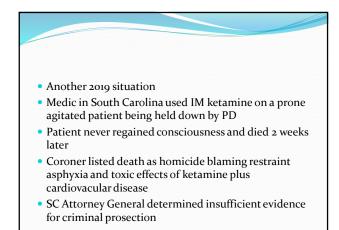


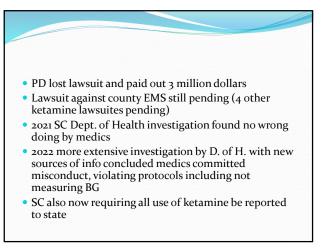


Only fact of improper care was dose of ketamine too large and poor assessment and reassessment

- How to estimate adult body weight
- Are we depending too much on chemical restraint?
- Other states requiring reporting of chemical restrain use
- Review of chemical restraint in other states reveals other deaths

10

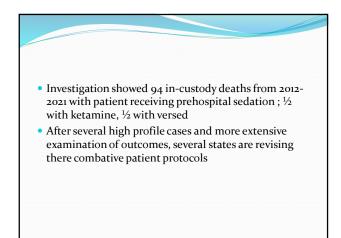


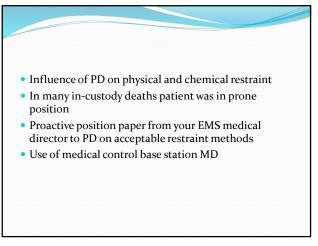


Side notes

- Several prehospital studies on the use of ketamine for combative patients have been done
- Results show generally safe drug if used properly
- However, several studies showed high level of intubation for combative patients administered ketamine, up to 30%
- Another small retrospective study looked at incidence of intubation with patient use of drugs
- Patients using cocaine had a five times higher rate of intubation compared to having other drugs in system

13





Possible wider implications:

- Concept of legal precedent
- Closer examination of use of sedatives with PD on scene
- Wider application of criminal negligent homicide, i.e. ET tube mis/displacement

16

