glutathione precursor. N-acetylcysteine can restore redox capacity and may protect the liver. Liver transplantation or albumin liver dialysis, eg, molecular adsorbents recirculation system (MARS) therapy, may be proposed as a last resort.3

Morgane Kervégant, PharmD
Luc de Haro, MD, PhD
Poison Control Center Marseille, France
Anne Marie Patat, MD
Poison Control Center Lyon, France
Charlotte Pons, MD
Pediatric Emergencies, Hôpital d’Avignon Avignon, France
Laurent Thomachot, MD
Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Hôpital Nord Marseille, France
Philippe Minodier, MD
Pediatric Emergency Unit, Hôpital Nord Marseille, France

References

Dull Brains at High Altitude

To the Editor:
In his Wilderness Essay “Decision making at extreme altitude: has anyone seen my executive function lately?” George Rodway1 skillfully uses quotes by Wilfrid Noyce, George Mallory, Eric Shipton, and other luminaries from the past.

The subject of brains at high altitude is a favorite of mine. I collect quotes by subject, so here are some more catchy phrases about hypoxic dull brains from the classic mountaineering literature.

I do not know if the brain can acclimatize itself, but I had the feeling that it would be a mistake to organize a chess tournament on the Khumbu.

—Rene Dittert

The top layers of my brain were probably dormant up there.

—Wilfrid Noyce

Looking back on my own mental processes as we approached 27,000 feet... within a small compass I was able to reason. No doubt very slowly... only one idea...

—George Mallory

If you don’t do things the minute you think of them, you are apt to forget, or what is even worse, to think you have done them just because they occurred to you—thought becoming reality.

—Kurt Diemberger

Words do not emanate of themselves the slowness of movement, the lassitude at such heights; memory cheats and passes over the blank spaces between events.

—Joe Tasker

Without sufficient oxygen... my mind was as active as a garden snail.

—Joe Tasker

Harvey V. Lankford, MD, FACE
Richmond, VA, USA

References

Personal Use of Performance-Enhancing Drugs at High Altitude

To the Editor:
I read with rapt attention the editorials on use of performance-enhancing drugs in high altitude climbing in the