We believe that these symptoms are possibly related to the dehydrogenated ethanol in which the drug is dissolved. Ethanol acts on the central nervous system through multiple mechanisms some of which are not well known. Recent studies [1] have shown that one of these mechanisms is the modulation of the GABA-A receptor. The confluence of the action of ethanol and flunazenil with respect to the GABA-A receptor could explain the reversibility of the symptoms in our patients. Although further research is necessary in this respect, given that the administration of flumazenil is innocuous, we recommend that this drug may be used in women in whom these symptoms appear.

Reference

1 Chester JA, Cunningham CL: GABA(A) receptor modulation of the rewarding and aversive effects of ethanol. Alcohol 2002;26:131-143