



ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS, INCLUDING SJS, TEN

A CASE REPORT OF PARACETAMOL-INDUCED STENVENS-JOHNSON SYNDROME

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Background: Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) is a serious undesirable cutaneous drug reaction. Paracetamol is one of the most widely used analgesic and antipyretic because of easy accessibility and cost-effectiveness. A few cases of SJS have been previously reported to be associated with paracetamol use.

Observation: A 52-year-old female with no comorbid condition had used one to six 500 mg tablets of paracetamol a day for 2 weeks for headaches. That was followed by the appearance of macular papular eruption in the thorax and neck. Physical examination revealed maculopapular-purpuric rash with pseudo cockades in the neck and the cleavage. They were surmounted by vesiculobullous and erosive lesions. The Nikolsky's sign was positive. These lesions did not exceed 10% of the cutaneous surface. She had no mucosal involvement. Liver function tests revealed elevated transaminases. Histology showed confluent keratinocyte necrosis with moderate dermal lymphocyte infiltrate. She was given symptomatic and supportive treatment to which she responded very well with immediate withdrawal of the offending agent.

Key message: SJS is a serious immune-mediated hypersensitivity reactions. Erosive mucosal involvement is found in more than 90% of cases. It is painful and particularly responsible of food difficulties. It may be absent as for our patient. The most common drugs are non steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, antipsychotics, antibiotics, allopurinol, and anticonvulsants. However, some rare cases of SJS have been reported in the past which are thought to be associated with paracetamol use. The present case was diagnosed as paracetamol induced SJS and correlation with exposure with signs and symptoms was made. Self-medication with paracetamol is widespread. Among its adverse effects, hepatic toxicity is the most common. This case report reports the fact that severe hypersensitivity reactions can occur with paracetamol, which can be possibly dangerous and life-threatening. Therefore, clinicians must be more cautious while prescribing. Patients should also be educated regarding the adverse effects of paracetamol.

