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age in photodermatitis though Vollmann (3), in his recent review of *Levisticum officinale* (Liebestockel), mentions 1 case of dermatitis resulting from contact with oil of lovage, previously reported by Calnan (4). With increasing interest in herb farming, lovage should be added to those plants already implicated in photodermatitis.

References

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Delayed allergy to diclofenac

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Key words: diclofenac sodium; non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; medicaments; systemic reactions; urticaria; anaphylaxis; allergic contact dermatitis; Type IV cell-mediated immunity.

Most side-effects of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are pseudoallergic and non-immunologic, but some such as pyrazolone (1) can cause Type I and, less often, Type IV allergy. Diclofenac sodium is an aryl-acetic NSAID.

Case Reports

Case no. 1

A 25-year-old female, with no family history of allergy, 2 years ago developed perioral, superciliary and hand dermatitis. She was a massage therapist and for several years had handled drugs including lysine acetylsalicylate, benzydamine and diclofenac. After 20 min, skin prick and i.d. tests with diclofenac, benzydamine and lysine acetylsalicylate were negative. PRIST (25 UK/l) and lymphocyte transformation tests were within normal values. A patch test with diclofenac 2.5% pet. was positive (+ + +) after 3 days. A patch test with benzydamine was negative.

Case no. 2

A 45-year-old female, with no family history of allergy, twice had urticaria after diclofenac, both as tablets and suppositories. Skin prick and i.d. tests were negative. PRIST and lymphocyte transformation test were within normal values. A patch test with diclofenac 2.5% pet. was positive (+ + +) after 2 days.

Case no. 3

A 44-year-old male, with no family history of allergy, had widespread urticaria after oral and i.m. NSAIDs (pyramidone, acetylsalicylic acid). An anaphylactic shock after i.m. diclofenac had occurred, and later after i.m. ketoprofen. Skin prick and i.d. tests with diclofenac, ketoprofen, pyramidon and lysine acetylsalicylate were negative after 20 min. PRIST and lymphocyte transformation tests were within normal values. A patch test with diclofenac 2.5% pet. was positive after 2 (+) and 3 days (+ + +), but pyramidon and ketoprofen were negative.

Patch tests with diclofenac 2.5% pet. in 10 controls were negative after 2 and 3 days.

Discussion

The positive patch tests to diclofenac make cell-mediated immunity possible even with a negative lymphocyte transformation test. Systemic reactions are consistent with cell-mediated immunity as well as local reactions, as we have previously shown in patients allergic to betalactam antibiotics (2). Hypersensitivity reactions to diclofenac have already been described, but to our knowledge, this is the 1st report suggesting Type IV cell-mediated immunity in their pathogenesis.