

Letter to the editor

Is the first really the first?

Dear Editor:

We have read with interest the article 'First case of anaphylaxis to iodinated povidone', by F. Le Pabic et al., recently published in the Allergy Net section of Allergy (1). In this brief article, the authors assert to have diagnosed and published the first two cases of anaphylaxis by povidone (PVP) (1, 2). Our group, in 1998, published a case of urticaria-angiodema after the topical application of Betadine® with a demonstrated immunoglobulin (Ig)E mechanism in its

pathogenesis (3). Two years later, Ronnau AC et al., showed again a specific IgE response against PVP in a case-report of anaphylaxis published in a prestigious journal (4). Consequently, the communication of Le Pabic et al., is erroneously considered as innovative. We would like to call the attention to both, authors and specially reviewers, when they handle with categorical statements such as 'first case of...'. Specially when the omission of the above mentioned references are easily obtained by a simple search in Medline®.

Finally, in our humble opinion, the consideration of being 'the first or the second case' is of little relevance but it becomes upsetting when the presence of this type of sentences, specially in the title, is the major argument of the manuscript to be or not eligible for publication.

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