

ADDENDUM

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Drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) to piperacillin/tazobactam (PT) diagnosed with delayed-reading intradermal tests (drIDT)

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Background

Allergic reactions to PT are rare. Anaphylaxis, urticaria, angioedema, maculopapular rash (MPR), AGEP, asthma have been reported. DRESS is a delayed, multi-organ drug reaction with 10%–40% mortality. European (RegiSCAR) and Japanese criteria exist. It is diagnosed clinically but patch tests have also been used. Drug challenge is contraindicated. There are few case reports of PT-induced reactions with features of DRESS, with no or limited allergological work-up.

Methods

History: SPT to 1 : 1 PPL, MDM, amoxicillin, benzylpenicillin, flucloxacillin, piperacillin/tazobactam, co-amoxiclav and other Abx used; IDT with 1 : 10 Abx.

Results

Patient 1: 61 female; perforated sigmoid; day 1–13: PT; day 14–17: ciprofloxacin, metronidazole added; day 17: MPR, pruritus, fever; Abx stopped, topical steroids started; day 19: thrombocytopenia; day 23: eosinophilia, hypoalbuminaemia; negative SPT to all Abx used; IDT positive only to PT at 24 h; later tolerated co-amoxiclav. *Patient 2:* 29 male; chronic osteomyeli-

tis; PT, vancomycin, ciprofloxacin, rifampicin, meropenem; day 21 of PT: pyrexia, headaches, widespread MPR, eosinophilia, raised ALT; PT stopped, topical steroids started; negative SPT to all Abx; IDT positive only to PT at 24 h. *Patient 3:* 27 male; skin necrosis due to leg fracture; co-amoxiclav, ciprofloxacin, vancomycin, meropenem, PT (21 days); day 25: extensive MPR with severe pruritus, fever, eosinophilia, deranged LFT; SPT negative to all Abx used; IDT positive only to PT at 48 h.

Conclusions

We present the first three cases of PT-induced DRESS, fulfilling RegiSCAR criteria, diagnosed by drIDT. They were safe in three patients with no recurrence of DRESS and non-irritant in 50 controls. IDT are more sensitive, easier than patch tests, although slightly less specific. We propose that they should be included in the diagnostic algorithm for PT (â-lactam)-induced DRESS. DRESS moreover appears to be drug- but not class-specific (patient 1 tolerated co-amoxiclav).

Category

Clinical Allergy.