

JOURNAL HIGHLIGHTS

Commentary regarding double-blind placebo-controlled trial of dapsonе in antihistamine refractory chronic idiopathic urticaria by M Morgan, A Cooke, L Rogers, B Adams-Huet, DA Khan. *J Allergy Clin Immunol* *Pract* 2:601–606, 2014

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Chronic idiopathic urticaria (CIU) is associated with itching, wheals, difficulties with activities of daily living, and (in some cases) disease-related quality of life scores comparable to those in patients with coronary artery disease. Traditional first-time treatment for CIU is nonsedating H1-antihistamines. Unfortunately, many patients with CIU do not respond to treatment even when higher than FDA-approved doses of H1-antihistamines (or combinations of various H1-antihistamines) are used. To evaluate the potential efficacy of dapsonе in patients with

H1-antihistamine refractory CIU, 22 patients were randomly assigned to 100 mg of dapsonе or placebo daily for 6 weeks in a 14-week double-blind, placebo-controlled crossover trial. End points (abstracted from a daily patient diary) included weekly hive score (WHS), weekly itch score (WIS), and a visual analog score (VAS) rating the overall severity of urticaria. Because a drug carryover effect was identified in the first phase of this crossover study, first results were analyzed as a parallel design comparing placebo with dapsonе directly using repeated-measures analysis. After 6 weeks of study, patients in the dapsonе arm showed a mean improvement over baseline in VAS, WHS, and WIS. Conversely, patients in the placebo arm showed no improvement over baseline for VAS, WHS, or WIS. Dapsonе showed greater improvement compared with placebo for WIS and VAS. Of the 22 patients in this study, 3 showed complete resolution of hives and itch with dapsonе; 31% and 41% had ≥50% resolution of hives and itch, respectively. Potential limitations of the study include its small number of subjects, the lack of

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follow-up to evaluate long-term efficacy, the lack of detailed monitoring of antihistamine use throughout the study, and the carryover effect observed in the first phase of this crossover trial. This study suggests that dapsone has efficacy in patients with H1-antihistamine refractory CIU.

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