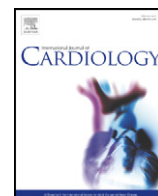




Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

International Journal of Cardiology

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ijcard

Letter to the Editor

Kounis syndrome in a patient with allergy to iodinated contrast media

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 2 June 2011

Accepted 5 June 2011

Available online xxxxx

Keywords:

Allergy

Contrast media

Kounis syndrome

To the Editor:

With great interest I read the article by Oneglia and colleagues who address an interesting issue of very great importance [1], and therefore I'd like to congratulate the authors for their work. In addition I have some comments to the presented case, a 71-year-old woman with Kounis syndrome (also called "allergic angina") and allergy to iodinated contrast media [1].

First, the hint that an "allergic angina" could be induced by iodinated contrast media is of very great impact, and should be investigated in more detail in larger patient groups, because this causal connection could be the missing link for cardiac complaints in association with contrast media injection [2,3]. On the other hand there are several questions open concerning the presented case: although the authors mentioned that the presented case was allergic to iodinated contrast media, they did not mention the names of causative compounds. Moreover, in the case report we find the hint that "on this occasion she was also found affected by allergy to iodinated contrast media", but the paper provides no information concerning the kind of reaction (clinical features [4]), the severity, the number of reactions, the time of onset after the contrast medium has been injected, the results of an allergological work-out (was it true allergic reaction or a non-allergic reaction? [5]), possible risk factors (e.g. allergic asthma [6]) and last but not least the time point of the last CM-reaction is also missing. Especially, the last fact is of great importance for this case. A CM-hypersensitivity reaction that occurred

more than 7 days before the onset of the Kounis syndrome seems to be an isolated reaction without causative connection to a contrast medium injection. This assumption is further supported by the fact that the authors wrote: "... chemotherapy with cisplatin and cyclophosphamide. After the second administration of these drugs she developed intense chest pain ..." [1]. This is a clear hint for the assumption that the presented patient could have a hypersensitivity to chemotherapy that could be also related to the Kounis syndrome.

In conclusion, cardiac complaint after iodinated contrast medium injection is currently an unsolved problem, and "allergic angina" could be the reason for it in some patients. Detailed clinical information on allergic reactions in general or hypersensitivity reactions to iodinated contrast media in particular are necessary to clearly relate reactions to suspected compounds. Furthermore, to facilitate a safe use of iodinated contrast media in patients with previous reactions detailed clinical information is very important.

Acknowledgement

The authors of this manuscript have certified that they comply with the Principles of Ethical Publishing in the International Journal of Cardiology. [7]

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