



ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS, INCLUDING SJS, TEN

A CLINICOPATHOLOGIC ANALYSIS OF ACUTE GENERALIZED EXANTHEMATOUS PUSTULOSIS(AGEP): THIRTY ONE CASES IN A TERTIARY HOSPITAL IN SOUTH KOREA

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Background : Acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis(AGEP) is a rare skin disease presenting an acute febrile eruption typically caused by medications.

Objective: The study aimed to analyze the clinical and histopathological features of Korean patients with AGEP to identify recent trends.

Materials and Methods: A retrospective review of 31 patients with AGEP for 10 years was conducted. Medical records and clinical photograph were used to analyze the clinical features (symptoms, sites), etiologies, outcomes and histological features

Results: The mean onset age was 43.6 years, and females outnumber males by 2.1:1. All patients showed numerous non-follicular tiny pustules and erythema during the disease course. The most common possible etiology was drug. Twenty cases (64.5%) were drug-induced, of which 11 cases were attributed to antibiotics. Five were (16.1%) occurred after ingestion of lacquer tree containing food. One case was related herbal medication. The remaining 5 were in unknown. Fever was in 13 patients (41.9%). Neutrophils were in 17 (71%). Serum CRP and LDH levels increased in 93.8% and 77.8% respectively. The skin eruptions resolved within an average of 7.5 days after onset in 25 patients. The proportion of female patients in the group associated with drugs was significantly higher than that in the group without identified possible agents or associated with etiologies other than drugs. Histopathologic findings of 25 patients revealed that subcorneal and intra-epidermal pustules in all, neutrophils exocytosis into epidermis in 96%, definite spongiosis in 88%. In dermis, neutrophilic infiltrate in 96%, dermal papillae edema 92% were found.

Conclusions: This study demonstrates the causes and clinical characteristics of AGEP in South Korea. Interestingly, AGEP may be caused by a food containing lacquer tree and herbal medicine.

