



ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS, INCLUDING SJS, TEN

ACUTE GENERALIZED EXANTHEMATOUS PUSTULOSIS (AGEP), DELIRIUM AND LACTIC ACIDOSIS DUE TO AZITHROMYCIN.

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Background: AGEP is a rare adverse reaction which is known to be caused mainly by drugs. 80-90% of cases are caused by antibiotics, mainly penicillins and macrolides. It is associated with high fever, leukocytosis and pustules, and is sometimes mistaken as acute infection. Early diagnosis of AGEP is important to avoid unnecessary investigations and administration of expensive and sometimes risky antibiotics

Observation: We report a case of Azithromycin induced AGEP, delirium and lactic acidosis occurring together. A 16 year old male was prescribed azithromycin for acne, and developed fever and malaise 5-6 hours after the first dose of azithromycin. He developed progressive rash with pustules and erythema over the next few days. He stopped azithromycin after the second dose on day 2. He developed delirium on the third day and was found to have lactic acidosis on investigation. With supportive treatment, delirium subsided in one day, lactic acidosis over the course of the next 3 days and subsequently the rash in a week.

Key message: AGEP has been reported in the past with azithromycin therapy, as has been delirium but lactic acidosis has not been reported. These manifestations of drug reaction can mimic other diseases and hence result in unnecessary therapy and morbidity, if not recognized early.

