ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS, INCLUDING SJS, TEN

ACUTE GENERALIZED EXANTHEMATOUS PUSTULOSIS DUE TO TEXTILE DYES

K Ameur [1] - Y Soua [1] - H Belhadjali [1] - S Boumaiza [1] - M Korbi [1] - M Youssef [1] - J Zili [1]

Fattouma Bourguiba University Hospital, Dermatology, Monastir, Tunisia [1]

Background: Acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) is a cutaneous reaction often due to antibiotics. We report the first case of AGEP due to textile dyes.

Observation: A 23-year old woman, a textile factory worker, presented with numerous scattered non-follicular pustules on an erythematous base. She had also fever and neutrophilia. Bacterial cultures from the pustules were negative. AGEP was suspected and confirmed by histopathological examination of a skin biopsy. Careful questioning of the patient failed to find any taken medication, mercury exposure or a spider bite. Four days later, the skin had almost completely recovered. Two similar episodes occurred as soon as she return to work with spontaneous healing. Patch tests with the European standard series were performed with positive reactions (++)according to International Contact Dermatitis Research Group (ICDRG) guidelines to Disperse Red 17, Disperse Blue 3, Disperse Blue mix. The diagnosis of occupational AGEP due to disperse dyes (DDs) was made. No clinical relapse has been observed after quitting work.

Key message: The diagnosis of AGEP in our patient was certain according to the score of the EuroSCAR group criteria (11/12). The responsibility of DDs was confirmed by patch tests. DDs are the most prevalent causes of textile-related allergic contact dermatitis but never had been reported as a cause of AGEP. A topical agent can exceptionally cause AGEP and the mechanism is still unknown. However, a systemic delivery is very likely. In fact, DDs do not adhere well to fabric, and so relatively large amounts of the dye are able to leach out of the fabric and be absorbed into the skin or be inhaled. In our case, the patient was exposed to DDs not only from contact, but also via inhalation as she was exposed to vapors released from dyes in the workplace atmosphere.