



ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS, INCLUDING SJS, TEN

ACUTE LOCALIZED EXANTHEMATOUS PUSTULOSIS (ALEP) INDUCED BY PIROXICAM

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Background: Acute localized exanthematous pustulosis (ALEP) is a localized variant of acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) which is characterized by the eruption of multiple scattered pustules following drug administration. We report the first case, as far as we know, of ALEP induced by piroxicam intake.

Observation: A 42-year-old woman was admitted for acute outbreak of multiple small nonfollicular pustules and underlying erythema and edema affecting the face and neck. There was no mucous membrane or nail involvement. At presentation, the patient was systemically well with no fever. The pustular eruption developed 3 days after taking piroxicam 20 mg intramuscular for a tooth ache. Laboratory investigations revealed a white blood cell count of 10,000/mm³ with normal differential. C-reactive protein (CRP) was elevated to 70mg/L. Microbiology showed sterile pustulosis. Histology revealed a subcorneal pustule with spongiosis. The superficial dermis was edematous, with a prominent perivascular infiltrate of lymphocytes, neutrophils and eosinophils. Based on the clinical features and histopathological findings, a diagnosis of ALEP secondary to piroxicam was made. Piroxicam was ceased with a resolution of the pustules within few days after topical corticosteroid treatment, followed by characteristic postpustular pin-point desquamation. The patient refused a follow-up cutaneous patch test.

Key message: ALEP is a rare variant of AGEP which is characterized by acute onset of multiple, 1-2mm, non-follicular sterile pustules arising on edematous erythema, localized typically to face, neck, or chest. Piroxicam induced pustular eruptions have been reported as AGEP and less commonly as ALEP. Piroxicam is a member of the oxicam family of non-steroidal antiinflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) that inhibits prostaglandin synthesis. It is mainly used for relief of pain in rheumatoid diseases, musculoskeletal pain, dysmenorrhea and menorrhagia. To the best of our knowledge, our case represents the first report of ALEP induced by piroxicam in the English literature.

