



ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS, INCLUDING SJS, TEN

ANTICONVULSIVANT DRUG-INDUCED PIGMENTATION OF THE ORAL AND TONGUE MUCOSA

Papagheorghe Laura Maria Lucia⁽¹⁾ - Popa Alexandra-victoria⁽²⁾ - Vajaitu Cristina⁽²⁾

Coltea Clinical Hospital, Dermatology, Bucharest, Romania⁽¹⁾ - Elias University Emergency Hospital, Dermatology Department, Bucharest, Romania⁽²⁾

Background: Cutaneous drug-induced side-effects are polymorphous and frequent and may lead to non-compliance when not properly addressed. While most drug-induced skin reactions are benign, some may be life-threatening. However, drug withdrawal is first step to be taken. Discolorations, either hypo- or hypermelanosis, of the skin and/or mucosa are often encountered in patients undergoing psychiatric treatments. Although such modifications are harmless, they may cause distress in patients.

Observation: An 18-year-old male patient presented to our Dermatology practice with black spots on the lips, tongue and on the bilateral sides of the oral mucosa, since 2 months. The medical history was significant for a mild form of mental disability, and therefore history was taken mostly from the mother. He was on 250 mg of valproic acid daily since 5 months for mild epileptic seizures. General examination was within normal limits. Oral hygiene was slightly precarious. The patient denied smoking or alcohol consumption. Upon examination we noticed black, ill-defined patches on the tongue, lips and the right and left buccal mucosa, with no discolorations on the hard palate. Other, causes of discolorations such as lingual cancer, hairy tongue and repetitive local trauma, were excluded. A yeast infection was also excluded after an ENT consult. A diagnosis of drug-induced mucosal pigmentation was given. Both mother and patient were reassured that the lesions are benign and may disappear after discontinuation of valproic acid use.

Key message: Dispigmentations are often observed in patients using psychoactive drugs. A close medical history must exclude more serious diagnoses such as cancer of the oral cavity and tongue.

