



ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS, INCLUDING SJS, TEN

## DRUG REACTION WITH EOSINOPHILIA AND SYSTEMIC SYMPTOMS (DRESS) FOLLOWED BY ASTHMA: A CASE REPORT

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**Background:** Drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) is one of the severe cutaneous acute reactions (SCAR) characterized by fever, skin eruption, enlarged lymph nodes, eosinophilia and internal organ involvement. This clinical manifestation is difficult to distinguish from viral exanthem. European Registry Severe Cutaneous Acute Reaction (RegiSCAR) criteria can be used to establish DRESS diagnosis. Various internal organs can be involved during the course of this disease which may affect the prognosis

**Observation:** A 33-year-old man with fever, cough, skin rash and itch since 3 days before admission. He was on cefadroxil 500 mg bid for the past 4 weeks. Physical examination obtained mild fever, generalized maculopapular exanthem with scale in some regions and lymphadenopathy. Laboratory findings were eosinophilia and abnormality of liver function with positive anti Hbc, and negative HbsAg as well as HBV DNA. Blood culture showed no bacteria. Histopathological examination demonstrated orthokeratosis, basket type weave, spongiosis, melanin deposits of basal layer, some vacuolization of basal cells in epidermis while in the dermis there were infiltrating inflammatory cells, slightly perivascular lymphocytes, a few neutrophil and eosinophils. RegiSCAR score was 7 meaning definite DRESS. On the course of the disease he developed asthma.

**Key message:** Many drugs are the cause of DRESS but cefadroxyl is rarely the cause. The diagnosis of DRESS is difficult as it may involve many organs, in our case liver and lung. We managed the patient by stopping the cefadroxyl and ibuprofen, instead methylprednisolone, antihistamines and topical urea 10% cream were given. There was clinical improvement but he developed pleuritis and asthma.

