



ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS, INCLUDING SJS, TEN

POSITIVE PERINUCLEAR ANTINEUTROPHIL CYTOPLASMIC ANTIBODY(ANCA)AND POLYARTHRALGIA ASSOCIATED WITH ISOTRETINOIN IN A 33-YEAR-OLD WOMAN : CASE REPORT

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Background: Isotretinoin is a retinoid drug used mainly in the treatment of severe acne vulgaris. In rare cases, an association with Rheumato-immunologic side effects has been reported. We describe in this case, a patient who developed positive ANCA along with polyarthralgia while receiving isotretinoin treatment for severe acne.

Observation: A 33-year-old women presented to our dermatology department with erythematous papular lesions of the limbs developed after the fourth month of isotretinoin (40 mg/day) treatment for severe inflammatory acne. She was complaining of joint pain and stiffness affecting both hands and wrists, both feet and knees. Physical examination revealed excoriated, erythematous and papular lesions on the thighs, legs, arms and forearm. All The following tests were normal: complete blood count, urinalysis, electrolytes, creatinine, protein in serum and liver function tests. CRP was 8 mg/L and ESR was 11 mm/h. Antinuclear antibody was mildly positive with negative subtype antibodies. ANCA were positive for the perinuclear (p-ANCA) pattern. Histopathological examination showed a lymphocytic perivascular infiltration without signs of vasculitis. The toxic origin of the several clinical and biological findings was highly suspected. Thus, Isotretinoin treatment was discontinued; All clinical signs regressed 6 months after cessation of isotretinoin, with no reoccurrences in a follow-up period of 3 years. The p-ANCA titers became negative 1 year after the patient's discharge.

Key message: Isotretinoin is a drug with well-known hepatic, muscular and dermatologic side effects. Its rheumato-immunologic side effects are less common and generally described as very rare (< 1/ 10 000 patients). Few cases in literature suggested that articular manifestations and ANCA positivity were most likely due to isotretinoin, appearing 6 weeks after initiation of the medication. In our case, we couldn't find any causal factor other than treatment with isotretinoin. We report this occurrence to bring attention on this





side effect of Isotretinoin prescription.

