



ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS, INCLUDING SJS, TEN

## URTICARIA TO SALBUTAMOL: ABOUT A RARE CASE

*S Salim<sup>(1)</sup> - G Benabdellah<sup>(2)</sup> - H Sefiani<sup>(2)</sup> - B Hassam<sup>(3)</sup>*

*Ibn Sina University Hospital, Dermatology And Venereology Department, Rabat, Morocco<sup>(1)</sup>  
- Anti Poison And Pharmacovigilancy Center Of Morocco, Pharmacovigilance Department,  
Rabat, Morocco<sup>(2)</sup> - Ibn Sina University Hospital, Dermatology And Venereology  
Department, Rabat, Morocco<sup>(3)</sup>*

Background: Salbutamol belongs to the class of drugs called bronchodilators, specifically to that of  $\beta_2$ -adrenergic agonists. It is used to treat asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and certain other respiratory disorders. This medication may cause several side effects. Hypersensitivity reactions such as urticaria remain very rare ( $<1 / 10000$ ) hence the interest of this observation.

Observation: We report the case of a 40-year-old woman with history of seasonal allergic conjunctivitis and rhinitis. Who consulted in the emergencies for moderate asthma attacks occurring recently at the rate of one crisis per 15 days. She was treated with salbutamol in nebulization (2 unidoses of 2.5mg/2.5ml by nebulization of 15 min), oxygenotherapy (4l/min), oral prednisone (1mg/kg/day) for 5 days and loratadine (10mg / day) for 1 month. Good respiratory improvement was noted. However, the patient presented face edema and urticarial plaques which were pruriginous, migratory and fleeting. These symptoms have occurred more and more early after each nebulization of salbutamol. Hypersensitivity reaction with acute urticaria to Salbutamol was suspected. The pharmaco-vigilance center confirmed our hypothesis. Our patient was prevented from taking any salbutamol, and an antihistamine treatment was prescribed. Since then, follow-up in pneumology has been instituted in order to adapt the treatment and to space asthma attacks.

Key message: Salbutamol has many side effects; the most common are headache, tremors and tachycardia, followed by muscle cramps, cough, paradoxical bronchospasm, peripheral vasodilatation, cardiac arrhythmia, hypokalaemia and behavioral disorders. More exceptionally ( $<1 / 10000$ ) hypersensitivity reactions may occur, including: urticaria (as in our patient), angioneurotic edema, pruritus, hypotension and collapse. In such cases, salbutamol should be discontinued and substituted by other therapies with similar effects without hypersensitivity reactions.

