



ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS, INCLUDING SJS, TEN

A CASE OF MACULOPAPULAR EXANTHEMA WITH PANCYTOPENIA SHOWING UNDETECTABLE SERUM TARC LEVEL.

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Background: Serum thymus and activation-regulated chemokine (TARC) level is a good marker for disease severity of atopic dermatitis. Some investigators have reported that serum TARC levels are low in atopic dermatitis patients complicated with essential thrombocytopenic purpura. We have also demonstrated that serum TARC level is extremely high in early stages of drug-induced hypersensitivity syndrome and a good marker to differentiate maculopapular exanthema. We experienced a case of maculopapular exanthema shows undetectable serum TARC level.

Observation: A 54-year-old woman with myelofibrosis consulted our hospital complaining high fever and cough. With diagnosis of suspected leukemia, she admitted to our hospital. Levofloxacin was started, and the patient developed systemic erythema after four days. Her physical examination revealed multiple papular erythema with itch. Maculopapular exanthema was diagnosed, levofloxacin was discontinued, and topical steroid therapy was initiated. Her blood examination showed pancytopenia, including WBC count 1990, RBC count 236,000, and platelet count 15,000. Her serum TARC was under detection limit of 100 pg/ml on Day 3, 6, and 13 after onset of her eruptions. The skin rashes disappeared two weeks after the onset.

Discussion and Conclusion: We have analyzed serum TARC levels and platelet counts in 14 cases with maculopapular exanthema previously examined in our department and found no correlation between these two parameters. Taking this into consider, we concluded that the undetectable serum TARC levels in this case are related to the complication of pancytopenia caused by her underlying disease. Serum TARC level is a good severity marker for atopic dermatitis and a good marker to differentiate drug-induced hypersensitivity syndrome from maculopapular exanthema, however clinicians need to be aware that serum TARC levels may be low in patients with pancytopenia irrelevant to their underlying diseases.

