

Carbamazepine-induced drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) syndrome: a case report

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Background

Drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) is a rare, severe adverse drug event that appears with a generalized rash, fevers, and dysfunction of 1 or more organ systems.

Most of the aromatic anticonvulsants, such as phenytoin, phenobarbital, and carbamazepine, can induce DRESS.

We describe a 32-year-old woman who presented fever and rash 10 days after starting carbamazepine for trigeminal neuralgia.

Aim

The aim of this case report is to raise awareness among doctors to suspect DRESS syndrome in patients who present with unusual complaints and skin findings after starting any antiepileptic drug and describe possible interventional treatments.

Method/ Case Report:

A 32-year-old female patient with no known disease was admitted to the dermatology department with rash and fever, after 10 days starting carbamazepine(400mg/day) for trigeminal neuralgia.

The patient with fever, rash, and elevated liver function tests was hospitalized in the dermatology service with the diagnosis of DRESS syndrome.

The patient who had severe, unilateral, and electric shock-like episodic facial pain in the V2-3 dermatome was consulted for the treatment of pain.

All drug treatments were stopped due to liver failure. Daily lidocaine iv (3mg/kg), transnasal sphenopalatine block, and maxillary/mandibular nerve peripheral block/PRF were applied to the patient.

The patient benefited from the treatment. No pain in the last 6 months in the follow-up.

Results

Although rare, DRESS syndrome can be associated with significant morbidity, including liver failure and death.

Under these circumstances, the patient's pain treatment may need to be managed, and interventional treatments should be considered.

Conclusion

In the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia, interventional procedures can be used when all drugs need to be stopped. More work is needed on this subject.

Keywords

Carbamazepine, Trigeminal neuralgia, DRESS Syndrome

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