

Pemphigus Foliaceus Associated with Cilazapril

Sir,

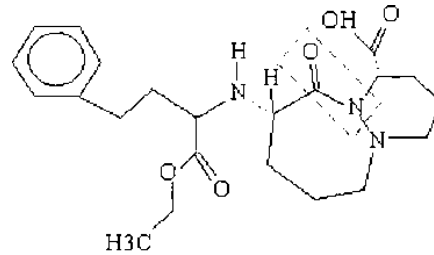
Pemphigus is an autoimmune blistering disease characterized by circulating autoantibodies directed against the keratinocyte cell surface. However, there are numerous reports of induced pemphigus attributable to the angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors captopril, enalapril and ramipril (1, 2). We report a case of pemphigus after cilazapril, a new non-thiol-containing ACE inhibitor.

CASE REPORT

A 69-year-old white woman with hypertension who had been taking cilazapril for 3 months developed numerous erythematous, crusted plaques on the scalp which spread to her back (Fig. 1), chest and face. Examination revealed several crusted plaques together with healed lesions. The Nikolsky's sign was positive. There was neither oral or genital involvement. A skin biopsy specimen showed acantholysis with subcorneal and intramalpighian clefts (several levels of cleavage). Direct immunofluorescence of perilesional skin revealed IgG and C3 deposition in the intercellular keratinocyte spaces. Indirect



Fig. 1. Crusted plaques together with healed lesions on the back.



CILAZAPRIL

Fig 2. Structure of cilazapril. Amide group indicated.

immunofluorescence was negative to antibodies to epidermal intercellular substance and antibasement membrane.

The cilazapril was discontinued but there was no spontaneous remission of the skin lesions, so she started treatment with oral prednisone (120 mg/day). Presently, she has a good evolution and lesions have totally remitted with the sole administration of azathioprine 100 mg/day.

COMMENT

Drugs containing an amide group have been associated with pemphigus (4). Cilazapril has an amide group like other ACE inhibitors, and it seems likely it is responsible for inducing the pemphigus foliaceus. The 3-month delay between starting the drug, the onset of eruption, the good evolution, and the presence of several levels of cleavage in the epidermis (3) make the diagnosis of induced pemphigus most probable, which is consistent with previous reports of induced pemphigus (2).

REFERENCES

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