Intravenous immunoglobulin for the treatment of quetiapin-induced bullous pemphigoid in an HIV-infected patient

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Case Presentation

- 48-year-old woman
- HIV infection (CD4 319/μL, viral load <50 c/mL), dementia, dyslipidemia
- Polymedicated (HAART, neuroleptics, statin)
  - **Bullous pemphigoid**
    - Light microscopy, DIF
    - Persistent eosinophilia
    - ↑ PCR
    - Excluded autoimmune and paraneoplastic association
Case Presentation

Treatment:

- Prednisolone 1 mg/Kg/day monotherapy: No response
- + Azathioprine 100 mg/day: No response + bicytopenia
- + IVIG 2 g/Kg/cycle (2-4 days), every 4wk

- Temporary disease control
- Well tolerated, no severe side-effects

but:

- Refractory disease with corticosteroid tapering
- Persistently elevated eosinophilia, and rising...

Persistent trigger? DRUG?
Case Presentation

Reviewing drug history:

- **Quetiapine**: the last introduced drug; 1200 mg/day (above the maximum recommended daily dose)
  - Quetiapine was discontinued
    - Complete clinical resolution
    - Resolution of eosinophilia
  - Inadvertent rechallenge with olanzapine
    - New flare and eosinophilia
  - Complete sustained response with quetiapine/related drug withdrawal
    - No need for immunosuppressors or immunomodulators
Discussion

1. Bullous pemphigoid in HIV patient
   - HIV and autoimmunity: a disease continuum?
   - Autoimmune diseases are common, but bullous pemphigoid is rare (4 cases)

2. Quetiapine-induced bullous pemphigoid
   - Neuroleptics are associated with bullous pemphigoid
   - Quetiapine: 1 previous report

3. IVIG in HIV patient
   - An alternative to immunosuppression
   - Widely used in other diseases in immunosuppressed patients
Conclusions:

- This rare case of drug-induced bullous pemphigoid in an HIV patient suggests quetiapine as a drug trigger for this condition.

- IGIV appears to be a safe and effective alternative to immunosuppressors in immunodeficient patients with severe bullous pemphigoid.
  - Safety, efficacy, and minimum effective dose studies in this subpopulation are warranted.
References: