

12. Amoxicillin-Clavulanic Acid Induced Cholestatic Hepatitis: a Case Report

H. Ghozzi,¹ B. Hammami,² H. Affes,¹ S. Hammami,¹ L. Ayedi,¹ K. Ksouda,¹ Z. Sahnoun,¹ A. Hakim, M Benjmaa,² Kh Zeghal¹

¹ Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine of Sfax, Tunisia; ² Department of Infectious diseases, Hedi Chaker Hospital of Sfax, Tunisia

Background: Hepatitis associated with amoxicillin-clavulanic acid is probably underestimated. The time interval between stopping treatment and the first manifestations may hinder diagnosis.

Objective: We report a case of cholestatic hepatitis induced by the association amoxicillin and clavulanic acid.

Case report: A 15-year-old man without significant past medical history received a six-day course of amoxicillin-clavulanic acid for acute bronchitis. Nine days after completing his treatment, he developed a jaundice with fever. Biological tests showed conjugated bilirubin of 23 mg/dl (normal level = 1–2.5 mg/dl) without hepatic cytolysis. Extrahepatic obstruction and viral causes were excluded. Clinical symptoms resolved within one week.

Discussion: An inquiry of pharmacovigilance has been realised according to French imputation method. It has allowed to suspect the responsibility of amoxicillin-clavulanic acid in the genesis of cholestatic hepatitis. The score of imputability has been evaluated at I2 (C2S2) B3 (plausible). The mechanism of amoxicillin-clavulanic acid induced hepatitis is probably immunoallergic. Clavulanic acid component of the combination is most likely the cause of hepatitis. Symptoms may appear even a few weeks after stopping the drug.

Conclusion: So, practitioners should think about this risk, if such symptoms appear even after stopping the drug.