

## Secondary Drug Toxiderma to Allopurinol: About 23 Cases

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### Abstract

### Original Research Article

Allopurinol is a commonly prescribed uric brake drug. However, it is one of the main drugs providing serious toxiderma such as Lyell, Stevens-Johnson syndromes and drug hypersensitivity syndrome or drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS). We carried out a retrospective study, carried out at the dermatology department of the CHU Mohammed VI of Marrakech over a period of 16 years from January 2003 to September 2019. We included all cases of allopurinol toxiderma diagnosed during the study period. The parameters studied are age, sex, associated defects, time to onset of toxiderma, clinical form, length of hospital stay and evolution. We have collected 100 cases of toxiderma, including 23 due to allopurinol (23%). Our patients were aged 18 to 76 with an average of 59.1 years. The sex ratio was 3.25 with a clear female predominance. 47% of our patients were diabetic, 35% were hypertensive and 29.4% were followed for chronic renal failure. Only 2 of our patients were on Allopurinol alone. Clinically, the main form found was Stevens Johnson syndrome in 47% followed by generalized acute exanthematic pustulosis and DRESS syndrome with 17.6% each and then rash maculo-papular with 11.7% and erythroderma in one case. These toxiderma required hospitalization ranging from 2 to 24 days with an average of 13.4 days. The evolution was favorable in almost all cases with only one death.

**Keywords:** Allopurinol, serious toxiderma, dermatology, toxiderma.

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## INTRODUCTION

Allopurinol is a commonly prescribed uric brake drug. However, it is one of the main drugs providing serious toxiderma such as Lyell, Stevens-Johnson syndromes and drug hypersensitivity syndrome or drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS).

## METHODS

This is a retrospective study, carried out at the dermatology department of the CHU Mohammed VI of Marrakech over a period of 16 years from January 2003 to September 2019. We included all cases of allopurinol toxiderma diagnosed during the period study. The parameters studied are age, sex, associated defects, time to onset of toxiderma, clinical form, length of hospital stay and evolution

## RESULTS

We have collected 100 cases of toxiderma, including 23 due to allopurinol (23%). Our patients were aged 18 to 76 with an average of 59.1 years. The sex ratio was 3.25 with a clear female predominance. 47% of our patients were diabetic, 35% were

hypertensive and 29.4% were followed for chronic renal failure. Only 2 of our patients were on Allopurinol alone. The main co-medication was angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors in 29.4% followed by metformin in 23.5% of cases and insulin and angiotensin receptor antagonists in 11, 7% of cases each. The association with indomethacin, amoxicillin, diuretics and beta blockers was found in one case each. The time to onset for toxiderma was 4 to 35 days after starting to take allopurinol with an average of 27.2 days. Clinically, the main form found was Stevens Johnson syndrome in 47% followed by generalized acute exanthematic pustulosis and DRESS syndrome with 17.6% each, then maculopapular rash with 11.7% and erythroderma in one case. These toxiderma required hospitalization ranging from 2 to 24 days with an average of 13.4 days. The treatment consisted in stopping allopurinol and daily bathing in all our patients, antihistamines were prescribed in 23.5% of cases. The evolution was favorable in almost all cases with a single death in a table of functional renal failure and hydroelectrolytic disorders with hyperkalaemia and hyponatraemia.

## DISCUSSION

Allopurinol is a powerful blood uricemic agent, it inhibits xanthine oxidase, which is an enzyme catalyzing the biosynthesis of uric acid. Several publications incriminate him in potentially serious toxiderma. The European multinational study to monitor cases of severe cutaneous adverse reactions (euroSCAR) was carried out in 6 countries (Austria, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, and the Netherlands) between April 1997 and December 2001. She reported that allopurinol is the most common drug for Lyell syndrome, and Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SSJ) in Europe and Israel with a rate of 17.4% among 379 patients [1]. The same results were described by Lin *et al.* in a study carried out in Taiwan on 35 patients with a rate of 17% [2]. Our results agree with the literature with a rate of 23%.

A slight female predominance was found in the EuroSCAR study with 59% of women with an average age of 64 years [1]. Chau Yee *et al.* reported a study of 146 cases of allopurinol toxiderma. Males accounted for 55% of the cases and the age varied between 18 and 88 years with an average of 65 years [3]. Our patients were 18 to 76 years old with an average of 59.1 years and 76.4% were women.

The time between the start of treatment and the onset of drug addiction is variable. According to EuroSCAR, the first 8 weeks of treatment need maximum precaution since 95% of SSJ and Lyell syndrome occur during this period [1]. Our results agree with the literature. 100% of toxiderma occurred within less than 6 weeks with an average of 27.2 days.

Furthermore, it seems that the risk of toxiderma is dose dependent. The administration of allopurinol at a dose  $\geq 200$  mg / day was noted in 95% of subjects with SSJ or Lyell syndrome in the EuroSCAR study [1]. Other studies by Yang *et al.* and Kuo *et al.* in Taiwan have reported severe toxiderma even at low doses of allopurinol [4, 5].

The cutaneous manifestations of allopurinol toxiderma are variable. They can be mild a maculopapular rash type or be life-threatening in the event of DRESS, SSJ or even Lyell syndrome. Of the 146 cases reported by Chau Yee *et al.* 40% had a DRESS, 27% had a papular rash, 21% had SSJ and 9% had Lyell syndrome [3]. In our study, the main form found was Stevens Johnson syndrome in 47% followed by generalized acute exanthematic pustulosis and DRESS syndrome with 17.6% each, then maculopapular rash in 11.7% and erythroderma in a case.

The HLA-B \* 58: 01 antigen appears to be incriminated in allopurinol toxiderma and mainly the severe forms. Chau Yee *et al.* demonstrated that 83% of the cases having presented a toxiderma among their

series were carrying the HLA-B \* 58: 01 antigen. This rate was higher for serious toxidermies with a rate of 93% for Lyell's syndromes, 91% for DRESS, 88% for SSJ and 65% for maculopapular rashes [3]. In addition, renal failure defined by a glomerular filtration rate DFG  $<30$  ml / min / 1.73 m<sup>2</sup> was found in 95% of cases. In these patients, the accumulation of oxypurinol, the metabolite of allopurinol with renal elimination, could cause hypersensitivity reactions according to Yun *et al.* The coexistence of HLA-B \* 58: 01 and kidney failure is accompanied by a significant increase in the risk of serious toxiderma. 29.4% of patients had chronic renal failure [6].

The association of renal failure appears to be correlated with the severity of toxiderma and with mortality. According to Chau Yee *et al.* 83% of the deceased patients had a renal function  $<30$  ml / min / 1.73 m<sup>2</sup> and these authors suggest to ban the use of allopurinol in the event of coexistence of HLA-B \* 58: 01 and insufficiency kidney with a GFR  $<30$  ml / min / 1.73 m<sup>2</sup> [3].

Several publications suspect the role of the interaction of certain drugs including aminopenicillins, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, acetylsalicylic acid and diclofenac in the genesis of Allopurinol toxiderma. But according to the EuroSCAR study, this co-medication is not associated with an increased risk [1]. Co-medication was found in 88.2% of our patients represented mainly by Angiotensin-converting Enzyme Inhibitors in 29.4% followed by metformin in 23.5% of the cases and insulin in 11.7%. urique et calcique, des déficits en adénine phosphoribosyl transférase (APRT) et des syndromes de Lesch-

The death rate secondary to toxidermia varies in the literature. It is 32% in the serious toxiderma for the study of EuroSCAR [1]. For Chau Yee *et al.* this rate is 8% of all toxiderma [3]. In our study, we report a single death in a table of functional renal failure with hydro-electrolyte disorders. Using allopurinol as directed could significantly reduce the morbidity and mortality from severe toxiderma. Halevy *et al.* estimate that 100 cases of SSJ and Lyell syndromes and 30 deaths could thus be avoided each year in Europe [1].

## CONCLUSION

The aim of our work is to draw the clinician's attention to the possibility of serious drug reactions with allopurinol and to remind the need to comply with the indications having Marketing Authorization.

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