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# Serious Drug Induced Hypersensitivity Reactions among Hospitalized Infants and Children

### **Thesis**

Submitted for Partial Fulfillment of Master Degree in Pediatrics By

#### **Saeid Fawzey Turkey**

M.B., B.Ch., Ain Shams University (2014).

Under Supervision of

## **Dr. Rasha Hassan El-Owaidy**

Associate Professor of Pediatrics Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University

### **Dr. Ahmed Rezk Ahmed**

Lecturer of Pediatrics Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University

Faculty of Medicine
Ain Shams University
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## List of Abbreviations

| Abb.          | Full term                                    |
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| ADR           | Adverse drug reaction                        |
| AGEP          | Acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis   |
| AR            | Allergic rhinitis                            |
| BA            | Bronchial asthma                             |
| BAT           | Basophil activation test                     |
| CLV           | Clavulanic acid                              |
| CMPA          | Cow's milk protein allergy                   |
| CRP           | C- reactive protein                          |
| CXCL8         | C-X-C Motif Chemokine Ligand 8               |
| CYP           | Cytochrome P450                              |
| DA            | Drug allergy                                 |
| DH            | Drug hypersensitivity                        |
| DHRs          | Drug hypersensitivity reactions              |
| DPT           | Drug provocation test                        |
| DRESSsymptoms | Drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic |

ESR.....Erythrocyte sedimentation rate

FcR.....Fc receptor

GM-CSF.....Granulocyte monocyte colony-stimulating factor

HB......Haemoglobin

HLA.....Human leukocyte antigen

ICDRG.....International Contact Dermatitis Research Group

I-DHR.....Immediate drug hypersensitivity reaction

IDT.....Intradermal test

IFN-γ.....Interferon gamma

IL.....Interleukin

IQR.....Interquartile range

LGALS3.....Galectin-3 lectin domain

MDH.....Multiple drug hypersensitivity syndrome

MPE.....Maculopapular exanthema

N/A.....Not assessed

NAT..... N-acetyltransferase

NI-DHR...... Non-immediate drug hypersensitivity reaction

NMBA..... Neuromuscular blocking agents

NOD2...... Nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain genes

NSAID...... Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs

PTs.....Patch tests

RCM.....Rradiocontrast media

SCARS.....Severe cutaneous adverse reactions

SJS..... Stevens-Johnson syndrome

SPT.....Skin prick test

SSLR.....Serum sickness-like reactions

STs.....Skin testing

TEN.....Toxic epidermal necrolysis

Th.....T helper cells

TNF.....Tumor necrosis factor

UGT..... Diphosphate glucuronosyltransferase

WBCs.....White blood cells

#### **ABSTRACT**

Background: There are very limited data concerning the epidemiology of drug hypersensitivity in Egypt. Aim: We sought to investigate the magnitude of serious drug hypersensitivity reactions among hospitalized infants and children in a tertiary hospital over a period of one year. Patients and methods: This is a crosssectional study that was conducted over a period of one year from the middle of October 2020 to the middle of October 2021. The study was carried out in Children's Hospital, Ain Shams University. We screened for patients with serious drug hypersensitivity reactions among a total of 10440 hospital admissions over a period of 12 months. Positive cases were further assessed with complete clinical and laboratory assessment. Results: Out of total admissions of 10440 patients over the study period, 35 (0.335%) patients had clinical manifestations of serious drug hypersensitivity reactions. Concerning those 35 patients, they were 21 (60%) males and 14 (40%) females with age ranging between 3 to 193 months with median (IQR) = 50 (24-96) months. In our study different medications were accused of causing serious drug hypersensitivity reactions. Antibiotics in general showed the highest frequency (54.3%) especially vancomycin (20%) followed by blood products (20%). Other drugs included antipyretics-analgesics, antiepileptic, cytotoxic and biological agents were suspected also to be the trigger of a serious drug hypersensitivity reactions but with lower frequencies (11.4%, 5.7%, 5.7% and 2.9% respectively). Four patients (11.4%) were known to be allergic; with 1(2.9%) having allergic rhinitis, 1 (2.9%) having urticaria, and 2 (5.7%) having cow milk protein allergy. Ten patients (28.6%) had family history of allergic disorders. Eleven patients (31.4%) had manifestations of anaphylaxis, 18 (51.4%) severe urticaria/angioedema, while the remaining 6 (17.1%) had manifestations of Stevens-Johnson syndrome. Concerning results of laboratory investigations, anemia was found in 29 (82.9%) patients, leukocytosis in 9 (25.7%) patients, leukopenia in 8 (22.9%) patients and thrombocytosis in 4 (11.4%) patients, while none of them had eosinophilia. CRP and ESR were elevated in 24 (68.6%) and 15 (42.9%) patients respectively. All of the 35 patients could overcome the drug hypersensitivity reaction with proper management. Conclusions: Although drugs hypersensitivity was rarely reported in our study, but they are potentially life threatening in many cases and should be clearly well reported. Proper education of the nursing staff and doctors in different specialties about different presentation and management of drugs hypersensitivity are essentially important. This would greatly help to prevent morbidity and mortality.

**Key words:** Drug-Induced Hypersensitivity, Hospitalized Infants, Children

#### INTRODUCTION

An adverse drug reaction (ADR) is defined as any harmful or unintended reaction to a drug that occurs at doses used for prevention, diagnosis, or treatment. Adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are broadly divided into predictable (related to pharmacologic actions of the drug in otherwise normal individuals) and unpredictable reactions (related to individual's immunological response and, on occasion, to genetic differences in susceptible patients) (Khan and Solensky, 2010). Drug allergy encompasses a spectrum of immunologically mediated hypersensitivity reactions with varying mechanisms and clinical presentations. This type of adverse drug reaction not only affects patient quality of life, but may also lead to delayed treatment, unnecessary investigations, and even mortality (Johansson et al., 2004).

Drug hypersensitivity reactions (DHR) may be IgE or non-IgE IgE-mediated reactions, mediated. In (e.g., urticaria, anaphylaxis), allergens angioedema, drug bind IgE antibodies, which are attached to mast cells and basophils, resulting in IgE cross-linking, cell activation and release of