



Lansoprazole-induced acute pancreatitis

To the Editor,

Acute pancreatitis is a disease characterized by inflammation of the exocrine pancreas tissues and impairment of the microcirculatory system of the pancreas (1). Here, we present a case of acute pancreatitis induced by lansoprazole, which is commonly used to treat acid-related diseases and has never been previously reported as a cause of acute pancreatitis.

A 60-year old male patient was admitted to our emergency department complaining of nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. Lansoprazole (Lansor; Sanovel, İstanbul, Turkey) was prescribed to resolve these dyspeptic complaints. However, he suffered from abdominal pain, high fever, nausea, and vomiting an additional two times in the following two weeks. He discontinued treatment since he thought that the symptoms may have been caused by lansoprazole. After he stopped taking the drug, his symptoms decreased and eventually disappeared. During his third hospital admission with the same symptoms, physical examination revealed widespread abdominal tenderness and guarding with decreased bowel sounds. Laboratory test results were compatible with a diagnosis of acute pancreatitis. His electrocardiogram was normal. Computed tomography of the abdomen revealed a slightly enlarged pancreatic corpus and peripancreatic fluid, both of which were compatible with a diagnosis of acute pancreatitis (Baltazar A-B level). His current history and laboratory test results eliminated other etiologies, such as viral infections, trauma, alcohol, or toxic causes.

After establishing a precise diagnosis, the patient was hospitalized. Lansoprazole treatment was discontinued, and intravenous hydration together with pain relief was started. After three days, his symptoms had resolved, and his laboratory test results were completely normal.

Blomgren et al. (2) assessed the link between acute pancreatitis and acid-suppressing drugs (corrected odds ratios for H₂ receptor antagonists and proton pump inhibitors were 2.4 and 2.1, respectively).

In another case report, acute pancreatitis developed as a rare side effect of proton pump inhibitors in two patients taking omeprazole and pantoprazole (3,4). An experimental model for omeprazole-induced pancreatitis was studied by Burdan et al. (5) in 2000, and they showed that intraperitoneal administration of omeprazole to rats induced peripancreatic fatty tissue inflammation and elevation of pancreatic enzyme levels.

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first case of acute pancreatitis caused by lansoprazole, a commonly used drug in the treatment of acid-related diseases.

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Informed Consent: Written informed consent was obtained from patient who participated in this case.

Peer-review: Externally peer-reviewed.

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