higher cost and less than optimum management of infectious diseases.

Objectives To determine the relative likelihood of true allergy in patients suspected to have a penicillin allergy and to investigate the risk factors involved. We hypothesized that the vast majority of self-reported penicillin allergies are less likely to be true allergies when proper immunological work up is performed.

Methods Paediatric patients aged 0–18 years presenting to the ADR clinic at the Children Hospital of Western Ontario (CHWO) with suspected antibiotic allergies were included. A retrospective review of charts was conducted to obtain demographic information and results from allergological and in vitro testing. Subjects were evaluated with a radioallergosorbent test (RAST) or the lymphocyte toxicity assay (LTA)/the in vitro platelet toxicity assay (iPTA) depending on whether the history was most consistent with an immediate allergy or a delayed hypersensitivity, respectively. Patients with negative RAST or LTA/iPTA were recommended to undergo confirmatory oral challenge test (OCT).

Results Ninety subjects were identified including 75 with possible penicillin allergy and 10 with suspected allergy to a non-penicillin antibiotic. Five subjects presented with a mixed allergy. Based on the results from RAST, in vitro testing and OCTs, the prevalence of a true allergy in the penicillin group was 6.25% vs. 66.67% in the non-penicillin group (p<0.001). Patients presenting with severe reactions were more likely to be truly allergic (p<0.01). In-patients were more likely to present with non-penicillin allergies and were subsequently more likely to have a true allergy (p<0.001).

Conclusions True allergy is very rare in patients with suspected penicillin allergies and can be determined with a proper work-up including OCT. Shorter protocols for the evaluation of these patients would be beneficial.

Disclosure(s) Nothing to disclose

Fetal Outcome following Dydrogesterone Exposure in Pregnancy

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Background The progestin dydrogesterone (DYD) is widely used for threatened and recurrent miscarriages, as well as for dysfunctional bleeding, infertility and other obstetric and gynecological indications. While its apparent efficacy has been compared to other progestins, its fetal safety has not been investigated.

Objectives To follow up fetal outcome after gestational exposure to DYD.

Patients and methods Using a 2.5 million patients’ database, we compared congenital malformations among babies exposed in utero to DYD between 1999 and 2016, to a control group not receiving this medication. We adjusted for concomitant exposure to in vitro fertilization (IVF) and to other forms of assisted reproductive technology (ART).

Results There were 8508 children exposed in utero to DYD (4417 males, 4091 females) out of 777,422 live births. After excluding cases with concomitant exposure to IVF and other forms of ART, DYD was associated with increased risk for hypospadias [OR 1.28 (95% confidence interval 1.06–1.55)], overall cardiovascular malformations [OR 1.18 (1.06–1.33)], spina bifida [OR 2.29 (1.32–3.97) and hydraccephalus [OR 2.04 (1.28–3.25). In additional analysis, including also those exposed to IVF and other forms of ART, there was also increased risk for cryptorchidism [1.37(1.19–1.58)] and congenital dislocation of the hip [OR 1.58(1.42–1.78)].

Conclusions DYD confers teratogenic effects after exposure to the recommended doses in pregnant women. Some of these adverse fetal effects are further augmented by concomitant use of IVF and other forms of ART. These independent teratogenic effects may have important implication for the child and family.

Disclosure(s) Nothing to disclose
Expression of concern: 004 Fetal outcome following dydrogesterone exposure in pregnancy


The Editor-in-Chief of Archives of Disease in Childhood has been advised that the full report of this trial, published in Clinical Drug Investigation (https://doi.org/10.1007/s40261-019-00862-w), has been retracted.

We do not have sufficient information about the reasons for retraction of the trial to provide evidence that this abstract is unreliable and should be retracted.

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