congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH). The patient was commenced on Extra Corporal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO), inhaled nitric oxide and parenteral nutrition. Baby was commenced on morphine, midazolam, vecuronium, dopamine, milrinone and adrenaline infusions. In addition to routine empirical antibiotics hydrocortisone at a dose of 2.5 mg/kg four times daily was commenced to treat hypotension. On day 8 a continuous vancomycin infusion was commenced in line with the network protocol. Two days later the infusion was stopped after a level of 41 mg/L was recorded (therapeutic range 15–25 mg/L). Treatment was recommenced at a lower rate and all following levels were within normal limits. On day 20 of life the patient was noted to have a widespread maculopapular erythematous rash which was most florid on the upper chest, feet and hands. The patient was apyreal but had a persistently raised CRP. A dermatology review was undertaken and the patient was prescribed a total body application of Daktacort cream. The clinical pharmacist also suggested, and prescribed, a one off dose of alimemazine. The following day the rash had become progressively worse and the possibility of a vancomycin reaction was considered. An internet image search showed that the rash was typical of vancomycin. The most common reaction to vancomycin is ‘red man syndrome’ however this is associated with rapid infusion at a rate greater than 10 mg/min. Patient’s vancomycin rate was equivalent to 2 mg/hour (0.035 mg/minute). Following discussion with microbiology treatment was changed from vancomycin to linezolid.

Investigations A review of the patient’s medication history showed a total of 11 different continuous drug infusions and six intermittent medicines. It was noted that the hydrocortisone, which had been weaning over a period of 14 days had been discontinued four days prior to the initial presentation of the rash.

Outcome Four days after cessation of the vancomycin infusion the rash had resolved. A yellow Card detailing the reaction was completed. We have since had a second patient with a similar rash appearing two days following cessation of hydrocortisone treatment.

Discussion In seven years of using continuous vancomycin infusion in neonates we had never encountered this type of reaction in neonates. Given the proximity between the cessation of steroid treatment and the appearance of the rash, together with the rash resolving following cessation of vancomycin treatment it is likely that this was a true reaction to the drug. The possibility of a suppressed ‘red man’ type reaction to vancomycin should be considered in babies receiving concurrent steroid treatment.

REFERENCE

Conclusion As with Advanced Nurse Practitioners (ANPs) it will take time for parents and patients to adapt to a pharmacist diagnosing and managing them instead of a doctor. This audit has shown the pre-conceptions of what a pharmacist can do could hold some back; however after seeing the pharmacist all were happy with the consultation. This is an exciting new role for pharmacists however it is essential to undertake advanced clinical and diagnosis skills in order to make it a successful.

REFERENCES

Are Parents and Patients Happy to See an Advanced Paediatric Pharmacist Practitioner (APPP)?

Andrew Lilley, Alder Hey Children’ s Hospital

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