Psychiatric disturbance attributed to cefepime
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ABSTRACT A 69-year-old woman with uremia undergoing long-term hemodialysis was treated with an IV infusion of cefepime 1.0 g twice daily for pulmonary infection. Three days later, the woman developed apathy, apathy, insomnia, and abnormal behaviors. An EEG examination showed mild-to-moderate abnormality without spike and sharp wave activity. Nonevaluable status epilepticus was excluded. Cefepime-induced psychiatric disturbance was suspected. On day 5, cefepime was stopped. Two days later, she fully recovered.

KEY WORDS cefepime; psychiatric disturbance; adverse reaction

Discussion The possible mechanisms of the psychiatric response in this case may include: (1) the difference in the elimination half-life of the two drugs, with cefepime having a longer elimination half-life, leading to prolonged exposure to the drug; (2) the presence of drug interactions, with cefepime potentially increasing the levels of other medications; (3) the presence of genetic factors, with some individuals being more sensitive to the effects of the drug; (4) the presence of underlying medical conditions, with the patient having a history of depression and anxiety; (5) the presence of environmental factors, with the patient having recently moved to a new location.

Conclusion The case highlights the importance of monitoring patients for psychiatric side effects when administering cefepime, and the need for clinicians to be aware of the potential for psychiatric disturbances in patients with uremia undergoing long-term hemodialysis.


(收稿日期: 2008-01-24)