

RECURRENT ANAPHYLAXIS ASSOCIATED WITH VORTIOXETINE

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OBJECTIVE: Vortioxetine is a multimodal antidepressant that is generally considered well tolerated, with a favorable side-effect profile compared to selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors. Although gastrointestinal and central nervous system adverse effects are most commonly reported, serious hypersensitivity reactions are rare. This report aims to describe a case of recurrent anaphylactic reactions temporally associated with vortioxetine use and to emphasize the clinical importance of recognizing rare but potentially serious drug-related hypersensitivity reactions.

CASE: A 31-year-old woman had been followed in a psychiatry outpatient clinic for eight years with a diagnosis of major depressive disorder. Her family history was notable for generalized anxiety disorder in her mother and bipolar disorder in a sibling. She had no history of allergic or systemic medical conditions. The patient had been using vortioxetine regularly for approximately two and a half years. During the final year of treatment, she developed recurrent episodes of angioedema, wheezing, and urticaria. Blood pressure remained stable, and no laryngeal edema was observed. A comprehensive allergy evaluation did not reveal an identifiable trigger. Symptoms resolved with antihistamine treatment,

and hospitalization was not required. After discontinuation of vortioxetine, no further reactions occurred. However, two months later, the patient self-administered a leftover 5 mg dose of vortioxetine, which rapidly led to recurrence of similar symptoms. Based on the temporal relationship and recurrence after re-exposure, a diagnosis of vortioxetine-associated idiosyncratic anaphylaxis was made. Written informed consent was obtained from the patient for publication of this case.

DISCUSSION: This case highlights that vortioxetine may rarely induce recurrent hypersensitivity reactions within the anaphylactic spectrum. The reproducibility of symptoms upon re-exposure supports a drug-specific immunological sensitivity rather than a dose-dependent effect. Although the clinical severity was mild to moderate, the presence of cutaneous and respiratory symptoms warrants careful evaluation. Increased clinical awareness and systematic reporting of such rare adverse reactions are essential for patient safety and pharmacovigilance.

Keywords: Anaphylaxis, antidepressant, hypersensitivity, vortioxetine