Antihistone Antibodies

Antihistone antibodies are found in up to 95% of individuals with drug-induced lupus, a condition that is similar to Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE); however, can be attributed to certain drugs. These drugs can be remembered by the acronym SHIPP: sulfonamides, hydralazine, isoniazid (INH), phenytoin and procainamide.



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Drug-induced Lupus
Loopy-pill butterfly
This disease is similar to SLE; however, it is due to certain drugs such as sulfonamides, hydralazine, INH, procainamide and phenytoin (SHIPP) among others. Anti-dsDNA and anti-Smith antibodies are typically absent while anti-histone antibodies are classically present. Treatment involves discontinuing the offending drug and starting the patient on prednisone if needed.

SHIPP Acronym
Ship
The drugs that can result in production of antihistone antibodies can be remembered by the acronym SHIPP: sulfonamides, hydralazine, isoniazid (INH), phenytoin and procainamide. The 3 drugs that are most responsible for produced antihistone antibodies and thus drug-induced lupus are hydrazine, procainamide and INH.

Sulfonamides
Sulfur-match-fondue
Sulfonamide drugs have been shown to cause development of drug-induced lupus.

Hydralazine
Hydra-laser
This is an antihypertensive drug that is often used in pregnant women with hypertension. It poses a high risk for development of drug-induced lupus.

Isoniazid (INH)
Ice-knight-zit
This is an anti-TB drug that poses a low to moderate risk for development of drug-induced lupus.

Phenytoin
Phone-tow-truck
This is an anti-seizure drug that poses a low to moderate risk for development of drug-induced lupus.

Procainamide
Pro-cane
This is a Class 1A antiarrhythmic drug that poses a high risk for development of drug-induced lupus.

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