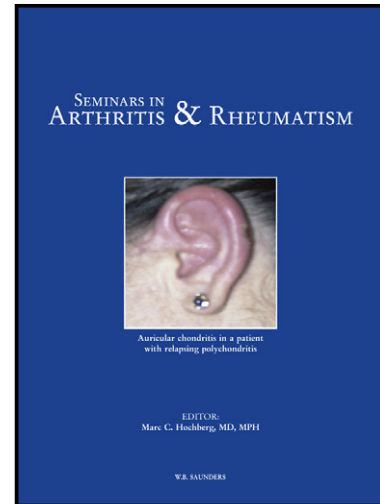


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Two cases of thrombosis in patients with antiphospholipid antibodies during treatment of immune thrombocytopenia with romiplostim, a thrombopoietin receptor agonist

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Two cases of thrombosis in patients with antiphospholipid antibodies during treatment of immune thrombocytopenia with romiplostim, a thrombopoietin receptor agonist

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Abstract:

Introduction: Romiplostim is a thrombopoietin-receptor agonist approved for raising platelet counts in patients with immune thrombocytopenia (ITP). Several hematologic adverse effects have been reported including acute myeloid leukemia, myelofibrosis, and thrombosis.

Methods: We report two cases, one paediatric and one adult patient, who had antiphospholipid antibodies and received romiplostim for ITP. Additionally, we conducted medline, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Adverse Events reports website, and manufacturer's adverse events database.

Results: Both patients developed thrombosis with evidence for catastrophic antiphospholipid syndrome (CAPS) after treatment with romiplostim. No reports or events were found from literature and database searches in regards to thrombosis associated with romiplostim in patients with antiphospholipid syndrome.

Conclusion: These cases illustrate the potential for thrombosis with the administration of romiplostim. The administration of this drug to patients with a history of an autoimmune disease, especially those with positive antiphospholipid antibodies, should be done with caution.

Introduction:

Romiplostim is a thrombopoietin-receptor agonist approved for raising platelet counts in patients with immune thrombocytopenia (ITP). Toxicities reported in the literature include bone marrow fibrosis, rebound thrombocytopenia, hematologic malignancies and thrombosis (1-4). The administration of transforming growth factors (TGFs) has been theorized to increase the risk of thrombosis in patients with ITP by increasing platelet count and by platelet activation (1,2). Therefore, administering a TGF to a patient with pre-existing thrombotic risk factors such as circulating antiphospholipid antibodies may lead to significant morbidity and mortality.

Keywords: antiphospholipid syndrome; catastrophic antiphospholipid syndrome; romiplostim; immune thrombocytopenia

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