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Hypersensitivity reactions to intravenous antibiotics in Cystic Fibrosis

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## Hypersensitivity reactions to intravenous antibiotics in Cystic Fibrosis

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### Abstract

Hypersensitivity reactions to intravenous antibiotics are common in cystic fibrosis (CF). As well as causing immediate morbidity, the need for future avoidance of the causative antibiotic can have a long-term negative impact on CF management. This paper reviews the epidemiology and clinical presentation of hypersensitivity reactions in CF patients, and using an illustrative case describes a rare but severe form of delayed drug reaction for which a high index of suspicion is required.

Keywords:

Cystic Fibrosis

Drug-Related Side Effects and Adverse Reactions

Drug Hypersensitivity Syndrome

### Educational aims:

- To discuss the immunological mechanisms underlying antibiotic hypersensitivity reactions in cystic fibrosis (CF) patients.
- To discuss the patient-specific risk factors for antibiotic hypersensitivity reactions in the CF population.
- To inform the reader about the typical clinical presentation of antibiotic hypersensitivity reactions in CF patients, to promote early recognition and management.
- To emphasise the spectrum of severity of antibiotic hypersensitivity reactions seen in CF patients, including the risk of life-threatening systemic reactions.

### Practice points:

- Hypersensitivity reactions to intravenous antibiotics are more common in individuals with CF than in the general population.
- The risk appears to be highest with beta-lactam antibiotics, particularly piperacillin.

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