

## P03-20

### CLOZAPINE INDUCED RASH: CASE REPORT OF SUCCESSFUL DESENSITISATION

R. Singh<sup>1</sup>, K. Raju<sup>1</sup>, J. Southern<sup>2</sup>, J. Darroch<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Psychiatry of Learning Disabilities, Eastway Unit, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, <sup>2</sup>Pharmacy Department, Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Chester, <sup>3</sup>Immunology, Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust, Liverpool, UK

**Aim:** Clozapine is the drug of choice for patients with treatment-resistant schizophrenia. However a minority of them have been unable to continue with Clozapine due to side-effects, for example rash. This report looks at the use of graded desensitization in a patient who developed cutaneous reactions to Clozapine.

**Method:** This report describes the management of a patient with treatment resistant-schizophrenia, mild learning disabilities and epilepsy, following a cutaneous reaction to Clozapine. Having been maintained on Clopixol depot until 4 years ago, he required a change in antipsychotics following a relapse of psychotic symptoms. He was then treated unsuccessfully with various anti-psychotics, before starting Clozapine, to which he showed a good response. Unfortunately he developed an eczematous rash on two separate occasions when the drug was introduced. Again he was tried on other anti-psychotics, to which he also developed a rash. He was then put on a graded desensitization regimen of liquid Clozapine.

**Results:** Graded desensitization, using incremental increases in drug dose, allowed maintenance treatment with therapeutic doses of Clozapine to be achieved in the absence of cutaneous hypersensitivity reactions. The patient's previously treatment-resistant psychotic symptoms were improved by this method.

**Conclusion:** We should be aware of possibilities for the management of both the common and uncommon side-effects associated with Clozapine, as the result might vastly improve the patients' quality of life. Desensitisation regimens can be an effective means of overcoming drug hypersensitivity but should be used with great caution, especially when patients exhibit delayed-type hypersensitivity reactions.