Interaction between Cyclosporin and Chloroquine

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Dear Sir,

We intend to confirm in this letter the pharmacological interaction between cyclosporin (CS) and chloroquine [1].

Mr. M., a 28-year-old Comorian, victim of an undetermined glomerulonephritis, was dialyzed in Reunion as from September 1989. He was then transplanted with a cadaver kidney in February 1991.

In December 1991, Mr. M. decided to go on vacation to the Great Comores, group 2 country (chloroquine-resistant at present) according to the National Reference Center for Chemosensitivity of Malaria. His immuno-suppression therapy comprised of prednisone (15 mg/day), CA (70 mg/day) and aza-thioprine (75 mg/day). Serum creatinine level was stable at 200 $\mu\text{mol/l}$, CS dosage by HPLC was 105 ng/ml (normal range: 100-200 ng/ml). Blood pressure 130/80 mm Hg.

A trial treatment with chloroquine was started (chloroquine 100 mg/day during 6 days), the others drugs were not changed. At consultation 6 days later, blood pressure was 160/100 mm Hg, serum creatinine level 234 $\mu\text{mol/l}$ and serum CS level 470 ng/ml. Chloroquine treatment was interrupted and the serum creatinine level CA level and blood pressure normalised.

In January 1992, chloroquine was again introduced (same doses), an increase in serum CA level and hypertension were noted.

We thus confirmed the major pharmacological interaction between cyclosporine and chloroquine: rapid and intense rise of CS level, normalisation with interruption of the co-prescription and reappearance of a positive response with reintroduction.

Reference

Nampoory MRN, Nessim J, Gupta RK, Johnny KV: Drug interaction of chloroquine with cyclosporin. Nephron 1992;62:108-109.