Anaphylactic Shock Due to Drugs

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Symptoms of anaphylactic shock (including acute peripheral circulatory collapse) have been studied in 21 cases of drug sensitization and these have been compared with 83 other cases reported in the literature. An asthma attack developed in 18% of the cases, laryngeal oedema in 11%, and an exanthema in 25%. The drugs involved were penicillin, contrast media containing iodine, brom-sulphthalein, vitamin B15 streptomycin, procaine, aminophenazone, salicylate, corticotrophin, chymotrypsin and penicillinase.

Prognosis of drug-induced anaphylactic shock was greatly influenced by the route of administration. Fatalities in this survey of adult patients occurred only after parenteral administration following a drug-free interval of 3 days to several years. Mortality was reduced by immediate treatment with adrenaline or noradrenaline and corticosteroids, together with antihistamines, artificial respiration and external cardiac massage.

Reference

Hoigné, R.: Arzneimittelallergien (Huber, Bern 1965).