

**Alimemazine/desloratadine/  
fexofenadine/loratadine****S****Fatal malignant neuroleptic syndrome,  
atrioventricular re-entry tachycardia and  
convulsions: 5 case reports**

In a retrospectively study, 5 patients were described who developed fatal malignant neuroleptic syndrome (1 patient), atrioventricular re-entry tachycardia (1 patient) or convulsions (3 patients) during treatment with alimemazine, fexofenadine, loratadine or desloratadine [*dosages, routes not stated; not all indications, durations of treatment to reaction onsets and outcomes stated*].

A 4-year-old girl developed a malignant neuroleptic syndrome after the use of alimemazine as a sedative and died.

A 14-year-old boy developed atrioventricular re-entry tachycardia after administration of fexofenadine. He was started on fexofenadine for allergy. After 8 days, he developed atrioventricular re-entry tachycardia. His concomitant medications included fluticasone and fluticasone/salmeterol. The correlation was deemed probable (Naranjo score method).

An 11-year-old girl experienced a convulsion lasting for 10 min after administration of loratadine. She also received sodium cromoglicate [cromoglicic acid] and salbutamol concomitantly. Consequently, the relation was deemed possible by Naranjo score method.

A 2-year-old girl started receiving loratadine. After 3 days, she developed convulsions. She also had fever. The Naranjo score method deemed the correlation as possible.

A 16-year-old boy was started on desloratadine for an allergy to grass pollen. Eight days later, he developed tonic clonic seizures. He was hospitalised for one night. The relationship between the drug and adverse effect was considered probable (Naranjo score method).

**Author comment:** "Serious ADRs included one death (malignant neuroleptic syndrome), cardiac arrhythmia (one case) and convulsions (three cases)."

de Vries TW, et al. Adverse drug reactions of systemic antihistamines in children in the Netherlands. *Archives of Disease in Childhood* 101: 968-70, No. 10, 2016.  
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