

Enoxaparin sodium

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Allergic anaphylaxis: case report

A 43-year-old man developed allergic anaphylaxis following the administration of enoxaparin sodium.

The man, whose history included recurrent thromboembolic events and cardiovascular risk factors, was on phenprocoumon therapy for continuous anticoagulation. He forgot to take his phenprocoumon and alternatively gave himself a SC injection of enoxaparin sodium 80mg into the skin of his abdomen. Five to ten minutes later, he developed erythema, nausea, dizziness, sweating and intense generalised pruritus. He presented to an allergy clinic, and his blood pressure was documented as 70/40 mm Hg. He also had tachycardia and developed an intermittent junctional escape rhythm. He also vomited heavily. Of note, he had also developed a wheal at the injection site.

The man was treated with epinephrine [adrenaline], prednisolone, cimetidine and clemastine. He recovered entirely, and abnormalities were not seen upon cardiopulmonary surveillance. Of note, he had received enoxaparin sodium 3 and 5 years prior during total endoprosthesis procedures of his right and left hip joints. Skin prick testing was done, and an IgE-mediated peanut allergy was ruled out as the cause of anaphylaxis. Skin prick testing was strongly positive for enoxaparin sodium [Clexane] and also positive for heparin, fondaparinux sodium [Arixtra], nadroparin calcium [Fraxiparin] and danaparoid sodium [Orgaran]. Results of dilution prick tests with enoxaparin sodium strongly suggested IgE-mediated hypersensitivity to enoxaparin sodium.

Author comment: *"Titrated skin prick testing with wheal and flare responses up to an enoxaparin dilution of 1:10.000 indicated a probable allergic mechanism of the enoxaparin-induced anaphylaxis."*

Anders D, et al. Allergic anaphylaxis due to subcutaneously injected heparin. Allergy, Asthma and Clinical Immunology Conference: Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology Annual Scientific Meeting 2010 Victoria, BC Canada 9: [4 pages], No. 1, Jan 2013. Available from: URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/1710-1492-9-1> - Germany

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