

**Loratadine/paracetamol/pheniramine/  
ascorbic acid**

**Fixed pigmented erythema: 2 case reports**

Two men developed fixed pigmented erythema during treatment with paracetamol/pheniramine/ascorbic acid [Fervex] or loratadine [Restamine] [*dosages and routes not stated*].

A 58-year-old man received paracetamol/pheniramine/ascorbic acid for an influenza-like syndrome in 2004. About 4 days after starting treatment, he presented with pruriginous erythematous lesions on his penis accompanied by a burning sensation. Treatment was stopped, and his symptoms gradually regressed, with appearance of a sequellar pigmentation 1 week later. In 2006 and 2008, he developed two further erythematous outbreaks on his penis after self-medication with paracetamol/pheniramine/ascorbic acid. In 2008, after the outbreak, he was diagnosed with fixed pigmented erythema of the external genital organs. He received cetirizine, ascorbic acid [vitamin C] and betamethasone. In January 2012, he received paracetamol without recurrence of fixed pigmented erythema.

A 64-year-old man had a history of myasthenia treated with pyridostigmine, non-insulin-dependent diabetes treated with metformin and asthma treated with beclomethasone. On two occasions since 2006, he presented with three round, erythematous, pruriginous lesions on his back and buttocks after receiving loratadine [*indication and duration of treatment to reaction onset not stated*]. On 24 April 2012, he self-medicated with a loratadine tablet. The next day, the lesions on his back and buttocks recurred, and he developed new lesions on his hands and forearms. He was diagnosed with fixed pigmented erythema, and he received cetirizine and betamethasone. Loratadine was discontinued. The erythema gradually regressed, with persistence of sequellar hyperpigmentation at the site of the lesions.

**Author comment:** *We report on two observed cases of fixed pigmented erythema, one due to pheniramine, a first-generation antihistamine, and the other due to loratadine. The imputability scores in these two cases were assessed according to the French method of Begaud et al. . . The intrinsic imputability score of Fervex was around 14, or very probable. . . The intrinsic score of loratadine was 14, or very probable.*

Lakhoua G, et al. Fixed pigmented erythema antihistamine H1: About 2 cases and review of the literature. *Therapie* 69: 243-244, No. 3, Jun 2014 [French; summarised from a translation] - Tunisia

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» **Editorial comment:** Details of these two case reports have previously been published [see Reactions 1340 p28-29; 803042704].