

**Carbamazepine/periciazine/sertraline**

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**Adult respiratory distress syndrome (first reports with periciazine and sertraline) in an elderly patient: case report**

A 75-year-old woman developed adult respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) during treatment with carbamazepine, periciazine and sertraline; she subsequently died.

The woman, who had a history of severe depression and bipolar disorder and had previously been treated with venlafaxine and olanzapine, started receiving carbamazepine 200mg twice daily, sertraline 50mg twice daily and periciazine 5mg three times a day [*duration of treatment not stated*]. She was admitted for elective reversal of an ileostomy and, on postoperative day 3, she developed hypoxia with symptoms consistent with acute lung injury and pneumonia [*time to reaction onset not stated*]. A chest x-ray revealed pulmonary oedema.

The woman received vancomycin, ciprofloxacin, continuous positive airway pressure, followed by bilevel positive airway pressure. She underwent tracheal intubation, mechanical ventilation and received furosemide followed by norepinephrine [noradrenaline]. Her ARDS did not resolve and she developed severe respiratory failure. She then developed multiple organ failure and died; during her ICU admission her regular medications had been continued.

**Author comment:** *"We suggest that continuing her phenothiazine therapy during the second ICU admission may have influenced the outcome by triggering acute lung injury which developed into prolonged and intractable ARDS. . . If antipsychotic medication played a role, its mechanism of action remains uncertain. However, we think that neurogenic pulmonary oedema is the most likely mechanism."*

Wilson H, et al. Antipsychotic drugs and the acute respiratory distress syndrome. *British Journal of Anaesthesia* 99: 301-302, No. 2, Aug 2007 - United Kingdom

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» **Editorial comment:** A search of AdisBase and Medline did not reveal any previous case reports of adult respiratory distress syndrome associated with periciazine or sertraline. The WHO Adverse Drug Reactions database did not contain any reports of respiratory distress syndrome associated with periciazine, but did contain 11 reports of respiratory distress syndrome associated with sertraline.