

PSYCHOSIS DUE TO CIPROFLOXACIN AND DICLOFENAC COMBINATION

Sir,

We would like to caution against the use of ciprofloxacin with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), especially in the elderly or in those with history of psychiatric or neurological disease. The potential adverse effects on the central nervous system with ciprofloxacin are well known,¹ but perhaps the particular dangers of the combination of drugs with anti-inflammatory agents are not appreciated.

A 79-year-old woman was readmitted for treatment of a presumed hospital-acquired pneumonia (she had been admitted a week previously for an elective left total hip replacement). Her only medication was diclofenac and misoprostol for her rheumatoid arthritis. She had no history of adverse drug reaction, psychiatric or neurological disease or alcohol abuse. Examination and investigations confirmed a right upper lobe pneumonia and were otherwise normal.

She was treated with amoxicillin and ciprofloxacin in combination, as per local hospital protocol. One day later, she developed acute agitation, visual hallucinations and paranoid delusions. Clinical examination and detailed investigations were entirely normal. An adverse effect related to the use of ciprofloxacin and diclofenac in combination was suspected and 48 hours after

stopping the ciprofloxacin, her symptoms completely disappeared.

Central nervous system effects associated with ciprofloxacin occur more commonly with increasing age² and with concurrent NSAID therapy¹ where seizures may occur possibly due to gamma-aminobutyric acid inhibition.³ Co-prescription of ciprofloxacin and NSAID should be avoided or used with extreme caution especially in the elderly or those with a history of seizure.

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REFERENCES

- 1 James EA, Demian AZ. Acute psychosis in a trauma patient due to ciprofloxacin. *Postgrad Med J* 1998; **74**:189–90.
- 2 Ball P. Adverse reactions and interactions of fluoroquinolones. *Clin Invest Med* 1989; **12**(1):28–33.
- 3 Unseld E, Ziegler G, Gemeinhardt A. Possible interaction of fluoroquinolones with the benzodiazepine-GABA-receptor complex. *Br J Clin Pharmacol* 1990; **30**:63–70.

ERRATUM

Re: Fluctuation in levels of biochemical parameters in choledocholithiasis (*J R Coll Physicians Edinb* 2003; **33:295)**

It has been brought to the Editor's attention that a typographical error occurred in line four of the final paragraph of this letter. It incorrectly read 'ascholelithiasis' when it should have read 'cholelithiasis'.

We apologise for any confusion this may have caused.