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Short Communication

CAN ASA (ACETYLSALICYLIC ACID) CAUSE LEUKEMIA?

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Abstract
Acetylsalicylic Acid (ASA) in a dose of 100mg daily has been used in heart diseases since the 70's, however very few studies relating the prolonged use with other diseases have been made. In this case report we describe a case of woman (59-years old) that after almost 10 years of continuous use of ASA developed leukemia.

Introduction

The Acetylsalicylic Acid has been used for more than 40 years, to prevent and manage heart disease and stroke. When acetylsalicylic acid inhibits prostaglandins, it inhibits the formation of blood clots as well, reducing the risk of heart attack and stroke and reducing the short-term risk of death among people suffering from heart attacks. Also, regular use of acetylsalicylic acid is associated with a reduction in death from all causes, particularly among the elderly, people with heart disease, and people who are physically unfit.

Case presentation: Here we report the case of a 59-year-old Caucasian woman that infracted in early 2008. After infarction she started to use acetylsalicylic acid daily (100mg). In 2013 the patient started complaining of bruises on his leg and arm and a rumored vascular fragility. In combination, the patient demonstrated excessive hair loss and physical fatigue. Complete Blood Counts (CBC) were made until January 2014, with the results all absolutely normal except the cholesterol that showed up high. The use of acetylsalicylic acid was suspended for 15 days by the patient. In March 2014 she returned with high bruises in her leg and arms, almost bald and very tried. The CBC shows the same results. The patient was convicted that the use of acetylsalicylic acid were the cause of everything. In June 2014, during a routine CBS the patient was detected with Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML), with the number of platelets around 2.000 mil/mm^3. The patient reported having no family history of leukemia.

Conclusions: Our case report highlights that apparent the continuous use of ASA may cause or even trigger AML.