LONG-TERM TREATMENT WITH CETIRIZINE OF INFANTS WITH ATOPIC DERMATITIS: A MULTI-COUNTRY, DOUBLE-BLIND, RANDOMIZED, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED TRIAL (THE ETAC TRIAL) OVER 18 MONTHS


Purpose of the Study. To analyze the effects of long-term use of cetirizine on the severity, natural history, and treatment of atopic dermatitis (AD).

Study Population. A total of 795 infants, 12 to 24 months old, with active AD for at least 1 month and 1 parent or sibling with a history of AD, allergic rhinitis, or asthma were enrolled from 12 European countries and Canada.

Methods. This was a prospective, randomized, double-blind, parallel-group study comparing cetirizine with placebo in infants with AD and a family history of atopy. Systemic corticosteroids, cromoglycate, and oral antihistamines were discontinued; however, topical therapy for AD was continued. After a washout period, participants then received treatment with 0.25 mg/kg of cetirizine or placebo twice daily for 18 months. Follow-up visits were at 1 and 3 months, then every 13 weeks during the 18-month treatment period. At each visit, atopy status, severity of AD based on the SCORAD index (an objective rating scale used to determine AD severity), concomitant therapy and adverse experiences were recorded. Blood and urine samples were followed throughout the study to evaluate total and specific immunoglobulin E (IgE) and eosinophil counts.

Results. During the treatment period, participants in both groups had a steady decline in the severity of AD based on both the subjective symptom score and SCORAD index. Although this decline was statistically significant (P < .001), no difference was observed between study groups. There were no specific recommendations or restrictions for additional therapy for AD during the treatment period, and significantly more participants in the placebo group than placebo (5.8% vs. 16%; P < .001). There were no significant differences in the occurrence of other adverse events between groups.

Conclusions. The use of cetirizine in infants with AD appears to be safe and significantly reduces the use of additional H1 antihistamines and the occurrence of urticaria. Results also suggest that cetirizine has a relative corticosteroid-sparing effect by decreasing the duration of moderate-to-potent topical steroid use.

DURK REYNE, MD
Little Rock, AR

LACK OF PENICILLIN RESENSITIZATION IN PATIENTS WITH A HISTORY OF PENICILLIN ALLERGY AFTER RECEIVING REPEATED PENICILLIN COURSES


Purpose of the Study. To determine the rate of penicillin (PCN) resensitization in adults with a history of PCN allergy after exposure to multiple courses of PCN.

Study Population. Fifty-three adults with a clinical history consistent with an acute, immunoglobulin E (IgE)-mediated reaction to PCN.

Methods. Adults >18 years of age who had a history consistent with an acute, IgE-mediated reaction to PCN were recruited for the study. Participants underwent PCN
LONG-TERM TREATMENT WITH CETIRIZINE OF INFANTS WITH ATOPIC DERMATITIS: A MULTI-COUNTRY, DOUBLE-BLIND, RANDOMIZED, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED TRIAL (THE ETAC TRIAL) OVER 18 MONTHS
Tamara T. Perry and Robert A. Wood

Pediatrics 2003;112;462

Updated Information & Services
including high resolution figures, can be found at:
/content/112/Supplement_2/462.1.full.html

Permissions & Licensing
Information about reproducing this article in parts (figures, tables) or in its entirety can be found online at:
/site/misc/Permissions.xhtml

Reprints
Information about ordering reprints can be found online:
/site/misc/reprints.xhtml
LONG-TERM TREATMENT WITH CETIRIZINE OF INFANTS WITH ATOPIC DERMATITIS: A MULTI-COUNTRY, DOUBLE-BLIND, RANDOMIZED, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED TRIAL (THE ETAC TRIAL) OVER 18 MONTHS
Tamara T. Perry and Robert A. Wood
Pediatrics 2003;112;462

The online version of this article, along with updated information and services, is located on the World Wide Web at:
/content/112/Supplement_2/462.1.full.html