

A case study of clozapine induced Myocarditis

Blessed Ncube Ramsay Pharmacy- Ramsay Adelaide Clinic (RAC)

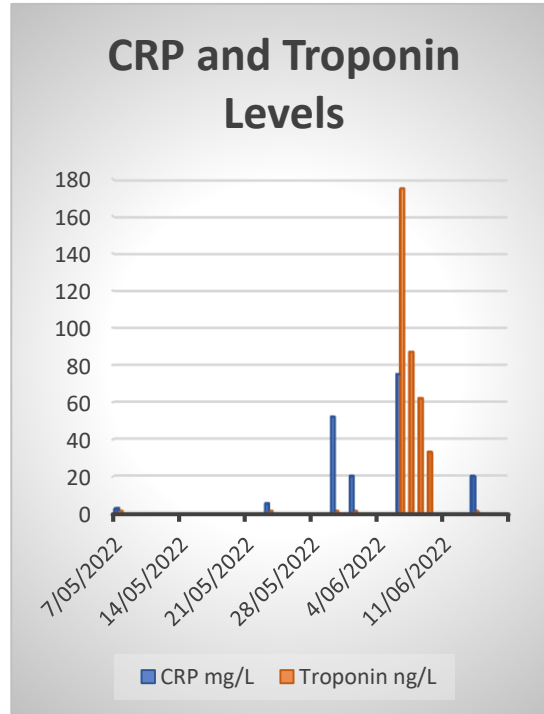
Introduction / Background

36 Year old female admitted to RAC for clozapine initiation for treatment resistant schizoaffective disorder after trial of high dose quetiapine and valproate. Registration and workup done as per protocol with weekly blood monitoring and recording

Methods

Patient responding well to treatment and hematology results within range however C-Reactive Protein (CRP) was elevated at 2nd week bloods but dropped when the clozapine dose was held. Patient was otherwise asymptomatic therefore treatment was resumed. 3rd week bloods showed even elevated CRP and a spike in the troponin level prompting cessation of clozapine and referral for cardiac monitoring. After 5 days the CRP and Troponin had returned to baseline as shown by the graph

Results



Conclusions

Prevalence of myocarditis in Australia is estimated at 3% and its symptoms can occur at anytime during treatment but mostly in the first 6-8 weeks and they are non-specific therefore might be underreported. The risk of overlooking symptoms (which can be fatal) might warrant that cardiac marker monitoring become mandatory when bloods are recorded for all clozapine patients as is required for all patients treated with this medication.

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