

**PETECHIAE - ADVERSE REACTIONS TO CIPROFLOXACIN**Anca Chiriac<sup>1</sup>, Anca E. Chiriac<sup>2</sup>, Tudor Pinteala<sup>3</sup>, Liliana Foia<sup>2</sup>, Caius Solovan<sup>4</sup>, Piotr Brzezinski<sup>5</sup><sup>1</sup>*Nicolina Medical Center, Department of Dermatology, Iasi-Romania*<sup>2</sup>*University of Medicine, Gr T Popa, Iasi-Romania*<sup>3</sup>*Imperial College London, UK*<sup>4</sup>*University of Medicine, V Babes Timisoara, Romania*<sup>5</sup>*Dermatological Clinic, 6th Military Support Unit, Ustka, Poland***Source of Support:**

Nil

**Competing Interests:**

None

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Sir

There are many dermatological adverse reactions to Ciprofloxacin reported in the literature: allergic reaction, pruritus, urticaria, photosensitivity/phototoxicity reaction, flushing, fever, chills, angioedema, edema of the face, neck, lips, conjunctivae or hands, cutaneous candidiasis, hyperpigmentation, erythema nodosum, sweating [1-5].

We report a case of petechiae appeared 24 hours after the initiation of Ciprofloxacin treatment for urinary infection, with long lasting evolution, despite the immediate withdrawal of the medication. The petechiae were present on the lower limbs, with intense pruritus, no systemic reactions.

**Case presentation**

A 65-year-old woman, with a history of chronic urinary

infections, for the first time treated with Ciprofloxacin 500mg twice daily, presented to our Department for the sudden onset (24 hours before the admission to the hospital) of a petechial rash on the lower limbs (Fig. 1a, 1b). No fever, no gastro-intestinal symptoms, just a slight pruritus on the site of the lesions. She was in good health state and she reported the first cutaneous manifestations after the second intake of the drug.

All the laboratory parameters were within normal range (no thrombocytopenia).

The medication was stopped and the patient was under observation and a short course of antihistamines, with wonderful results, but only after 21 days after the withdrawal of Ciprofloxacin therapy.

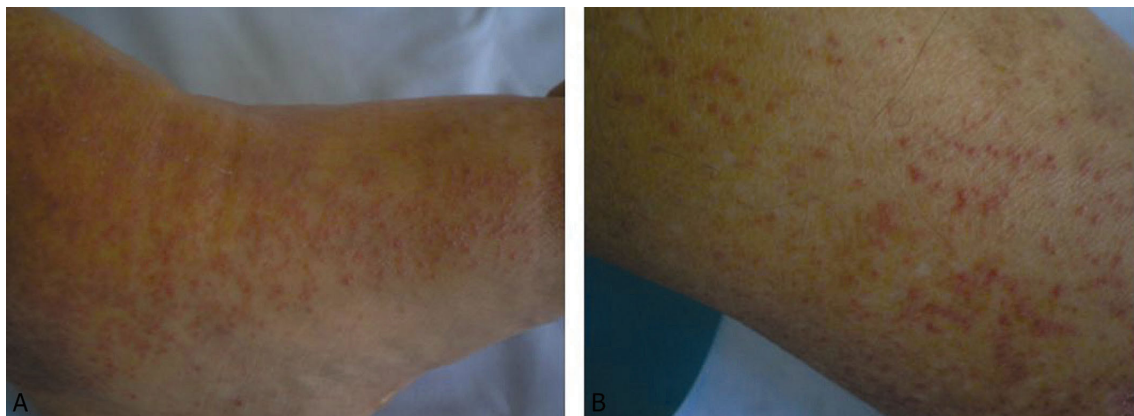


Figure 1 a,b. Petechiae on the lower limbs

### Discussions

Ciprofloxacin is one of the most commonly used antibacterial agents with relatively few side effects. Serious adverse reactions reported with ciprofloxacin are rare with an incidence of 0.6% (Tabl. I).

It is well known that Fluoroquinolones can induce drug-dependent, platelet-reactive antibodies causing complement-mediated destruction of platelets and thrombocytopenia [1], but it was the case of our patient who had a normal number

of platelets.

Also there have been reported a few cases of photo exposed purpuric eruptions during treatment with Ciprofloxacin [2], but our patient denied any exposure to sun or UV light and it was winter when the diagnosis of petechias induced by Ciprofloxacin was made [5].

There are few reports on petechial adverse reaction to Ciprofloxacin therapy and we want to aware clinicians about this possible side effect of this widely use medication.

Adverse reaction (L Mandell 2002)	Range of incidence (%)
Gastrointestinal (diarrhea, vomiting)	0.8 - 6.8
Central nervous system (dizziness, headache)	0.9 - 11
Skin (rashes)	0.4 - 2.1
Blood disorders	0.5 - 5.3
Cardiovascular (palpitations)	0.5 - 2.0
Musculoskeletal	0.5 - 2.0
Phototoxicity or photoallergy	0.5 - 2.1
Serious reactions, eg, hemolytic uremic syndrome, Stevens Johnson syndrome	<0.5

Table I. Adverse reaction (L Mandell 2002) to Ciprofloxacin [5]

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