

**VILAZODONE INDUCED RASH****Ammu A.<sup>1\*</sup>, Babitha Annie Eapen<sup>1</sup>, Chaithra S.<sup>1</sup>, S. Hemalatha<sup>2</sup>, T. Sivakumar<sup>2</sup>**<sup>1</sup>Pharm D interns, Nandha College of Pharmacy, Erode, Tamilnadu, India.<sup>2</sup>Department of Pharmacy Practice, Nandha College of Pharmacy, Erode, Tamilnadu, India.Article Received on  
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Erode, Tamilnadu, India.**ABSTRACT**

Vilazodone is reported to cause wide range of adverse drug effects such as dizziness, dry mouth, fatigue, abnormal dreams, decreased libido, arthralgia and palpitation. Despite these well-known side effects we report a 36 year old female patient presented with rash while she was on the treatment with oral vilazodone at 40mg once daily since 1 week. Based on the dermatological examination, her condition was diagnosed as vilazodone induced rash. The symptoms improved after the cessation of offending agent and an alternative antidepressant was prescribed.

**KEYWORDS:** Rash, Major depressive disorder, Vilazodone.**INTRODUCTION**

Major depressive disorder was considered as the fourth leading cause of morbidity and disability in quality of life worldwide. It is a heterogeneous disorder and the patient may shows the symptoms such as depressed mood, loss of interest, insomnia, loss of appetite and poor concentration.<sup>[1]</sup> Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor is the first line treatment option for the management of major depressive disorder.<sup>[2]</sup>

Vilazodone, a newer antidepressant for the treatment of MDD was approved by FDA on January 2011. The drug acts as combination of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and serotonergic (5HT<sub>1A</sub>) receptor partial agonist activity.<sup>[3]</sup> The dual pharmacological action gives faster onset of antidepressant property and immediate improvement of mood symptoms. The most commonly reported adverse drug reaction in MDD patient treated with vilazodone (incidence  $\geq 5\%$ ) were diarrhea, nausea, insomnia and vomiting.<sup>[4]</sup> Here we present a

patient who developed maculopapular rash all over the body after beginning vilazodone therapy for MDD.

### **CASE REPORT**

A 36 year old female patient was admitted to the psychiatric ward with complaints of low mood, reduced interest in pleasurable activities, insomnia and loss of appetite. The patient was a known case of recurrent depressive disorder. Treatment was started with sertraline 40mg orally twice a day, clonazepam 0.5mg once daily and vilazodone 40mg orally once daily. After 1 week on initiation of therapy, the patient developed rash on the back with excoriation, without itching, and spread over the entire body. Upon dermatological evaluation, revealed that the rash was associated with vilazodone.

On management the suspected drug was discontinued and treated with topical steroid cream. The rashes over the body abruptly disappeared with no scars on cessation of medication. After the symptomatic relief, the patient was prescribed with an alternative antidepressant, mirtazapine 7.5mg orally once daily.

### **DISCUSSION**

Drug induced hypersensitivity reaction are very common drug reaction caused by many drugs. The incidence of cutaneous reaction has been found between 1-3% .The etiology and pathogenesis of drug induced rashes depends on patient and the suspected drug. In our patient on the seventh day of treatment, erythematous rash was seen on the entire body. Withdrawal of the vilazodone and symptomatic medication improves the condition of the patient.

The efficacy and safety of vilazodone 40mg per day was assessed in a study of 8 weeks, double blind, placebo controlled phase 2 trials and tolerability was demonstrated in phase 4 trial.<sup>[1]</sup>

In pivotal placebo controlled trials vilazodone were associated with dizziness, dry mouth, fatigue, abnormal dreams, decreased libido, arthralgia and palpitation.<sup>[5]</sup> In this patient after stopping vilazodone an alternative antidepressant mirtazapine was started.

**CONCLUSION**

Vilazodone is the first dual acting selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor and serotonin partial agonist reuptake inhibitor indicated for the treatment of MDD. Rash, relatively a rare adverse effect of vilazodone treatment.

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