DAPSONE SYNDROME – FIRST PAEDIATRIC CASE REPORT IN MALAYSIA

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Introduction: Dapsone syndrome is a potentially fatal hypersensitivity reaction characterised by high fever, skin rash, hepatitis, lymphadenopathy and haemolytic anaemia appearing several weeks to as late as six month following the use of dapsone.

Case Report: We report a 12-year-old girl who developed high grade fever associated with intense jaundice, generalised erythematous maculopapular rash and hepatomegaly after five weeks of starting the multi-drug regimen (dapsone and clofazimine) for the treatment of Hansen’s disease. Laboratory investigations revealed presence of anaemia, leucocytosis with eosinophilia, deranged liver enzymes and abnormal coagulation profile. Histological examination of the skin biopsy showed perivascular lymphocytic infiltrates in the dermal layer. Immediate cessation of the offending drug and administration of steroid was proven successful.

Conclusion: A high level of clinical awareness is important for early diagnosis of dapsone syndrome as initiation of a prompt treatment may lead to rapid recovery.