

Hyaluronidase

Delayed hypersensitivity in an elderly patient: case report

A 73-year-old man developed delayed hypersensitivity following administration of hyaluronidase [Hyalase] during cataract surgery [*dosage not clearly stated*].

The man received a 3mL injection of a local anaesthetic preparation containing a 50: 50 mixture of 2% lidocaine and 0.75% levobupivacaine with hyaluronidase 30 IU/mL to his subtenon space. One day later, he had marked, painless proptosis of his right eye. He could not open his eye and he had severely limited eye movements. Initial differential diagnoses included ocular infection or retrobulbar haemorrhage. An orbital CT scan revealed soft-tissue swelling. Over 1 week, his swelling spontaneously resolved.

Patch testing to an extended standard series, local anaesthetic series, bupivacaine, lidocaine and levobupivacaine was negative. Prick testing and intradermal and SC injections were performed with lidocaine, bupivacaine, levobupivacaine and hyaluronidase (15 IU/mL). There was no reaction to any of the drugs at 20 minutes. However, at 2 days, the man had erythema and spreading induration at the intradermal and SC injection sites of hyaluronidase, which persisted for 4 days.

Feighery C, et al. Delayed hypersensitivity to hyaluronidase (Hyalase TM) used during cataract surgery. *Contact Dermatitis* 57: 343, No. 5, Nov 2007 - Northern Ireland 801097085