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Alopurinol-induced TEN and association with HLA B*58:01 in white patients


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We have read the article 'A retrospective investigation of Human Leucocytic Antigen (HLA). B*5801 in hiperuricemia patients in a Han population of China' by Cheng et al. We would like to congratulate the authors for this succesful publication and make some contributions. We have had several cases in the intensive care section of our burn care unit involving White patients who developed Lyell's syndrome – all of them confirmed by biopsy – attributed to the use of allopurinol. Although the correlation between HLA B*58:01

and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) has been described in Asian patients, we have begun to perform HLA genetic study in patients presenting with Lyell's síndrome associated with allopurinol, in order to avoid treatment with xanthine oxidase inhibitors in direct family of these, not only in Asian patients. Given this fact, it might be advisable to set up a HLA B*58:01 screening program in all patients with allopurinolinduced TEN, regardless of their race.

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