

# Toxic Epidermal Necrosis Due To Cephalexin in a Non-Specialty Care Unit Setting

Ianne Jireh N

Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, Cebu, Philippines

## Abstract

We report what we believe is only the 6th reported case of toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) due to Cephalexin and the first to survive outside of a specialty care unit. The patient was a 50-year old female who presented with generalized cutaneous bullous and desquamative lesions one week after taking Cephalexin which exacerbated upon subsequent use. She had no known comorbidities and did not have any prior history of allergies. A predicted mortality rate of 35.3% (SCORTEN 3) was calculated based on the extent on epidermal detachment (76%), age, and low serum bicarbonate level of the patient. The patient survived in spite of admission to a charity non-communicable disease ward instead of an intensive care or specialty burn care unit. The bullous lesions were aseptically punctured and drained, a technique which was not used in any other documented case of TEN. Histologic findings of focal and complete portions of epidermal detachment, and aggregates of lymphoplasmacytic inflammatory cells confirmed epidermal necrolysis, a rare, life-threatening non Ig-E mediated hypersensitivity reaction to drugs. The pathophysiology of TEN is incompletely understood and there is uncertainty around its accepted management since the rarity of the disease and its high mortality rate makes it difficult to conduct randomised control trials on emerging therapies. Conservative and multidisciplinary approaches to medical management are discussed according to current literature.

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## Biography

Dr. Ianne Jireh Ramos-Canizares has experience in providing medical services at the grassroots and is passionate about removing barriers of health access and providing the utmost care for patients. She was a rural health physician under the Doctor to the Barrios (Villages) program and is currently on training as an Internal Medicine resident physician in

Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, Cebu City, Philippines. She works on systems-based approach in solving current medical problems and looking for better ways to do things. She is also interested in health information systems, like the e-Sakto program, using public-private partnerships.