

Pseudomembranous Colitis in a Patient Treated with Paclitaxel for Carcinoma of the Breast: A Case Report

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Introduction: The concomitant antimicrobial properties of antineoplastic agents may play a role in causing pseudomembranous colitis, which has been documented for cisplatin, cyclophosphamide and 5-fluorouracil. ***Clinical Picture:*** We describe the first case reported in the English literature of severe pseudomembranous colitis occurring in a patient given paclitaxel as adjuvant chemotherapy for breast cancer. There was no prior antibiotic therapy. Stool culture confirmed *Clostridium difficile*. ***Treatment:*** Oral vancomycin, metronidazole and cholestyramine led to prompt improvement of intestinal symptoms, which resolved in two weeks. ***Outcome:*** Repeat colonoscopy performed 3 months later showed total resolution of the colitis. ***Conclusions:*** Awareness of pseudomembranous colitis after paclitaxel chemotherapy can avert life-threatening complications.

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