

## **BREATH MALODOUR IN AN ACNE PATIENT CAUSED BY SIDE-EFFECTS OF MEDICATION: A CASE REPORT AND LITERATURE REVIEW**

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Clinicians may encounter patients with complaints of halitosis after a period of taking medication. A review was performed of the main databases, including Medline, Scopus, ISI Web of Knowledge, International Science Database (ISI) and others. Only a few articles were found and some with low-level scientific evidence. There are reports of some drugs directly inducing bad breath: suplatast tosilate; disulfiram; cysteamine; dimethyl sulfoxide; noxythiolin. A huge range of other drugs are suggested as indirectly inducing it, due to their possible side-effects, such as hyposalivation and gingival hyperplasia by altering bacterial environment.

This report documents a case of an 18 year-old male complaining about xerostomia, bad breath and tongue coating, after 3 months taking isotretinoin to treat a diagnosed severe acne. The presence of volatile sulfur compound (VSC) in mouth air, tongue coating and unstimulated saliva was assessed on a monthly basis, during treatment and for 2 months afterwards. The VSC in mouth air were measured with a portable gas chromatograph.

With the improvement in oral hygiene and by means of gustatory and cholinergic stimulators, the level of VSC, tongue coating and xerostomic complaints was reduced. However, optimal scores were obtained 2 months after the end of his acne treatment. Isotretinoin, a universally prescribed drug to severe acne, may so be a transitory potential cause of halitosis, possibly due to its hyposalivation side-effect.

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