

FISHBANE REACTION

After 1991, when iron dextran became standard care in treatment of anemia in patients on dialysis, Steven Fishbane, Professor of Medicine, State University of New York at Stonybrook, described a self-limited reaction consisting of acute chest and back tightness, without accompanying hypotension, wheezing, stridor, or periorbital edema, usually after the test dose. This occurs infrequently, and rarely occurs with rechallenge. These events are more likely to occur in patients with an allergic diathesis.

It is important not to overreact to these minor adverse events as intervention with antihistamines and pressors may cause severe hemodynamic adverse events unrelated to the IV iron. Observation without intervention for approximately five minutes results in the cessation of symptoms.

Pretreatment with corticosteroids may be beneficial in preventing a recurrence of this otherwise minor reaction, although it rarely recurs irrespective of pretreatment. In patients with an allergic diathesis, pretreatment with corticosteroids may be beneficial.