Hypothetical model with 3 phases^{27,28,76}

- In the first phase, the titration is too fast for a specific patient, as the psychiatrist was too aggressive with it, and/or due to the patient's clozapine PM status; this leads to a release of cytokines.
- In the second phase, a positive feedback loop develops, the cytokines inhibit CYP1A2, which further increase the plasma clozapine concentrations.
- In the third phase, if the titration continues, the inflammation becomes complicated by the development of auto-antibodies (or another auto-immune phenomenon) which leads to myocarditis or other inflammations.

Extension of the concept

In a literature review, Verdoux et al. ¹⁰³ proposed that manifestations of clozapine-induced inflammation due to rapid titration may include a wide variety of presentations including:

- systemic inflammatory processes:
 - fever
 - fever with isolated CRP elevation
 - lupus
- localized signs of inflammation:
 - myocarditis,
 - serositis,
 - pneumonitis/alveolitis,
 - hepatitis,
 - pancreatitis,
 - nephritis,
 - colitis, and
 - dermatological disorders

Overlap among definitions

- The above classification is somewhat arbitrary since these presentations may lie on a continuum with no clear-cut boundary between them, and several conditions may co-occur.
- Moreover, it overlaps with manifestations associated with eosinophilia; the typical clozapine-induced myocarditis is associated with eosinophilic infiltrations. A recent review from a European pharmacovigilance database identified 51, of which 47 were new cases of clozapine-related DRESS syndrome which appear to have associated variables similar to clozapine-induced myocarditis. ¹⁰⁴

CRP, c-reactive protein; CYP1A2, cytochrome P450 1A2; DRESS, drug reactions with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms; PM, poor metabolizers