Minocycline is an antibiotic used increasingly in a variety of situations including MRSA infections and also known for its anti-inflammatory properties. Its side effects are usually benign and well known. We report a first of its kind case of minocycline-associated acute pancreatitis in a patient in whom all other common causes of pancreatitis were ruled out. The aim is to raise awareness about this rare but serious side effect of a widely-used antibiotic.

Keywords: Minocycline; Pancreatitis; Adverse effects
As the use of minocycline grows wider it will be helpful for clinicians to recognize this serious adverse effect and thus it is suggested to have a high index of suspicion for minocycline as a cause of acute pancreatitis in a patient with concerning symptoms and in absence of more common causes. Currently there is no data to help identify which patients on minocycline therapy are at a higher risk for developing acute pancreatitis and hence screening with lipase levels is not recommended. It is hoped that by case reports like this we can identify certain risk factors.

References