Results Reasons for treatment withdrawal were: a) increase in levels of creatinine in 27 out of 59 patients causing treatment suspension for 3 patients; b) nausea and vomiting in 8 cases; c) 6 out of 8 patients presented hypertension; d) 11 patients suffered from headache and treatment was withdrawn in 4 cases; e) 13 patients showed increase of levels of alkaline phosphatase, 3 of them were under combined methotrexate treatment; f) other causes: diarrhoea (4), dermatitis (1), trombocytopenia (1) and metrorrhagias (1).

Conclusion Cyclosporine is an effective treatment for the rheumatic diseases, nevertheless, the side effects have forced us to withdraw treatment for half of patients under the study.

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AB0210 STUDYING OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE SYNVISK IN OSTEOARTHRITIS

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10.1136/annrheumdis-2001.731

Background At present for improvement of life quality in patients with osteoarthritis is necessary to solve some problems: precluding of development of degenerative process in cartilage of affected joint, relieving of pain and improving of the function of the joint.

Objectives

Methods For these aims we studied the efficiency of the chondroprotective drug Synvisk by Boehringer Ingelheim in 25 patients with arthrosis of the knee in medium age of 61.2 ± 1.7 years, 16 women and 8 men, with duration of the disease 5.8 ± 0.9 years. Conform X-ray data the distribution of the patients by stages of the disease was as follow: I grade ? 20%, II grade ? 64%, and III grade ? 16%. In experimental group the drug was administered intraarticular by blind method in dose of 2.0 ml one time in a week, 3 injections for the course, which were repeated after 6 and 12 months. The control group was matched by gender, duration of disease and X-ray date; in this group was administered placebo conform same scheme. Evaluation of the effectiveness and tolerability of compared drugs was carried out in evolution of clinical (pain, functional index by Lesquesne, volume of movement on affected joints), X-ray parameters and functional methods (ultrasonography, scintigraphy with ^{99m}Tc).

Results In the basic group were mentioned decreasing of the pain intensity and improvement of the joint functions just after single injection in one third of the patients, while in control groups similar cases were absent. After 3 courses of the treatment in the basic group the effects were obtained in 86.7% of the patients, including 33.3% very good effect, in 53.4% moderate effect and only in 13.3% the effects were absent. In control group there were no effects in 80% of the patients, and in 20% of the patients there were mentioned moderate effects; good effects were are not observed.

Conclusion Thus, presented results suggests that administration of Synvisk lead to significant improvement of the life quality in the patients with arthrosis of the knee.

AB0211 STUDYING OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE SYNVISK IN OSTEOARTHRITIS

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Background At present for improvement of life quality in patients with osteoarthritis is necessary to solve some problems: precluding of development of degenerative process in cartilage of affected joint, relieving of pain and improving of the function of the joint.

Objectives

Methods For these aims we studied the efficiency of the chondroprotective drug Synvisk by Boehringer Ingelheim in 25 patients with arthrosis of the knee in medium age of 61.2 ± 1.7 years, 16 women and 8 men, with duration of the disease 5.8 ± 0.9 years. Conform X-ray data the distribution of the patients by stages of the disease was as follow: I grade ? 20%, II grade ? 64%, and III grade ? 16%. In experimental group the drug was administered intraarticular by blind method in dose of 2.0 ml one time in a week, 3 injections for the course, which were repeated after 6 and 12 months. The control group was matched by gender, duration of disease and X-ray date; in this group was administered placebo conform same scheme.

Evaluation of the effectiveness and tolerability of compared drugs was carried out in evolution of clinical (pain, functional index by Lesquesne, volume of movement on affected joints), X-ray parameters and functional methods (ultrasonography, scintigraphy with ^{99m}Tc).

Results In the basic group were mentioned decreasing of the pain intensity and improvement of the joint functions just after single injection in one third of the patients, while in control groups similar cases were absent. After 3 courses of the treatment in the basic group the effects were obtained in 86.7% of the patients, including 33.3% very good effect, in 53.4% moderate effect and only in 13.3% the effects were absent. In control group there were no effects in 80% of the patients, and in 20% of the patients there were mentioned moderate effects; good effects were are not observed.

Conclusion Thus, presented results suggests that administration of Synvisk lead to significant improvement of the life quality in the patients with arthrosis of the knee.

AB0212 EXPERIENCE WITH INTRAVENOUS IMMUNOGLOBULIN THERAPY IN TWENTY PATIENTS WITH DIFFERENT AUTOIMMUNE RHEUMATIC DISEASES

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Background

Objectives Retrospective evaluation of high dose intravenous immunoglobulin (IVIG) treatment in patients with connective tissue diseases.

Methods We evaluated the records of 8 patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), 8 patients with inflammatory muscle disease [polymyositis (PM), juvenile dermatomyositis (JDM), dermatomyositis (DM)] and 4 patients with Wegener's granulomatosis (WG) who received 2 g/kg IVIG in 5 days 1-12 times monthly.