A PROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL STUDY ON THE SAFETY AND EFFICACY OF INFLIXIMAB-BIOSIMILAR IN PATIENTS WITH TAKAYASU’S ARTERITIS (TAKASIM): PRELIMINARY DATA

C. Campochiaro, A. Tomelleri, S. Bartorelli, C. Sembenini, G. Cavalli, E. Baldiiserina, L. Dagna. Unit of Rheumatology, Immunology, Allergy and Rare Diseases (UnIRAR), San Raffaele Scientific Institute, Milan, Italy

Background: Takayasu arteritis (TA) is a large-vessel vasculitis. 1 Treatment is mainly based on steroids, but in approximately 50% of patients a disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug (DMARD) is required. Anti-TNFα agents are recommended for steroid tapering despite DMARDs. Infliximab-originator (IFX-O) is a chimeric monoclonal antibody against TNFs effective in TA patients. Infliximab-biosimilar (IFX-B) is an immunoglobulin-G1 chimeric human-murine monoclonal antibody biosimilar to IFX-O.

Objectives: To assess safety and efficacy of IFN-B in TA patients requiring anti-TNFα therapy.

Methods: 30 TA patients, diagnosed according to ACR criteria at our tertiary centre, will be recruited from our cohort. Both biological therapy-naïve and IFX-O-treated patients will be eligible. Disease activity will be assessed 6-monthly based on a thorough clinical examination and a PET/CT scan. Arterial and joint uptake of FDG were scored relative to liver uptake with a 4-point scale. The values of each district examined were summed to obtain a total vascular score (TVS) and a total joint score (TJS). A semi-quantitative analysis of FDG uptake was carried out. Arterial and joint uptake of FDG were scored relative to liver uptake with a 4-point scale. The values of each district examined were summed to obtain a total vascular score (TVS) and a total joint score (TJS). A semi-quantitative analysis of FDG uptake was carried out. Arterial and joint uptake of FDG were scored relative to liver uptake with a 4-point scale. The values of each district examined were summed to obtain a total vascular score (TVS) and a total joint score (TJS). A semi-quantitative analysis of FDG uptake was carried out.

Results: At January 2019, 18 patients (18/21, 1 male) were included. 12 patients have been on IFX-B for at least 6 months. Median age at baseline was 45 years (range 25–70). At recruitment median disease duration was 52 months (range 24–180), all patients were on IFX-B. Median time on IFX-B at baseline was 35 months (range 14–150). 3 patients had been previously treated with other biologics: tocilizumab, adalimumab. 18/19 patients (94.7%) were on concomitant steroid therapy (mean dose 5±1.8 mg). It was significantly reduced to a mean dose of 4.17 mg (p=0.043) at month 6. 15/19 patients (78.9%) were also on DMARDs, kept unchanged throughout treatment. 1 patient on IFX-B was switched to a different therapy because of poor disease control with both IFX-O and IFX-B. Mean IFX-B dose at baseline was 6.92±1.76 mg/kg. Mean IFX-B dose at month 6 was 7.42±2.19 mg/kg. IFX-B dose was increased in 5 patients. Mean time interval between IFX-B infusions was kept unchanged (5.79±0.63 weeks). Mean CRP and ESR were 3.29±2.64 mg/L and 19.68±9.94 mm/1 hour at baseline and 3.4±3.12 mg/L and 20.53±14.06 mm/1 hour at month 6, the difference not being statistically significant. Mean ITAS2010 and ITAS-ESR/CRP were 7.6, 8.2 and 8 at baseline and 6.1, 6.8 and 6.3 at month 6, the difference not being statistically significant. At month 6 PET/CT showed no disease progression in all patients and MRA disclosed disease stability in 8/12 (66.7%), regression in 3/12 (25%) and improvement in 1 (8.3%) patient. No patient experienced side effects during infusion. 11/19 patients (57.9%) experienced low-grade side effects related to TNFα blockade. 6 patients experienced upper airway infection, 3 herpes simplex reactivation, 1 viral gastroenteritis, 1 vaginal candidiasis. No modification of IFX-B therapy was required.

Conclusions: Our preliminary data suggest that IFX-B is as effective and safe as IFX-O in TA patients.

REFERENCES:

Disclosure of Interest: None declared.

SAT0522

VASCULAR AND JOINT INFLAMMATION ARE NEGATIVELY CORRELATED IN PATIENTS WITH POLYMYALGIA RHEUMATICA, Giant Cell Arteritis AND FEVER OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN

D. Camellini1,2, M. Bauckneht3, S. Morbelli4, M. Marchion9, G. Pesce2, D. Saverino5, M. Bagnasco6, M.A. Cimmino7, Division of Rheumatology, Musculoskeletal System Department, Azienda Sanitaria Locale 3 Genovese, Arezzo; 7Autoimmunology Laboratory, Department of Internal Medicine; 2Nuclear Medicine Division, Department of Health Sciences; 3University of Genoa, Genoa, Italy; 4Rheumatology Clinic, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Genoa, Genoa, Italy

Background: 18 F-Fluorodeoxyglucose positron emission tomography (PET) reveals the presence of large vessel vasculitis (LVV) in 30–40% of patients with apparently isolated polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR), in 70–80% of patient with giant cell arteritis and in about 20% of patient with fever of unknown origin (FUO)2, suggesting that these conditions may be different clinical manifestations of the same entity.

Objectives: To evaluate and compare the patterns of vascular and joint uptake in patients with PMR, GCA, and FUO.

Methods: Consecutive patients with a diagnosis of PMR, GCA or FUO underwent a thorough clinical examination and a PET/CT scan. Arterial and joint uptake of FDG were scored relative to liver uptake with a 4-point scale. The values of each district examined were summed to obtain a total vascular score (TVS) and a total joint score (TJS). A semi-quantitative analysis of FDG uptake was carried out. Arterial FDG uptake was quantified by calculating the mean standardised uptake value (SUV) within each region of interest (ROI) and the results expressed as the ratio between mean SUV value of each ROI and the blood-bool (SUV/BP). To assess joint metabolism, CT-based ROIs were blateraly drawn on joint and bursal spaces.

Results: One hundred and thirty-one patients were included, 89 females and 42 males, with a median age of 74 years (range 47–92). Ninety-seven patients were diagnosed as PMR, 13 as GCA, 16 with both PMR and GCA and 5 patients presented with FUO. FUO patients showed a higher mean arterial SUV in comparison to PMR (0.77 vs. 1.15, p<0.004) and GCA patients (0.81 vs 1.15, p<0.052). Similar and more striking results were obtained using visual scoring. FUO patients showed always increased uptake in the large vessels. PMR patients showed statistically lower TVS than GCA +PMR, GCA and FUO patients. Patients with PMR showed a statistically significant higher mean joint SUV than GCA patients (p<0.01). The highest mean articular uptake was shown by PMR patients and the lowest by FUO patients. Mean TJS of PMR patients was significantly higher than that of GCA and FUO patients (p<0.001). TVS and TJS correlated negatively (p=0.01), as did mean vascular SUV and mean joint SUV (p<0.001).

Conclusions: Although patients with diseases different from PMR were few, our PET/CT study support the view that there is a continuum in the intensity of inflammation, with FUO >GCA+PMR>GCA- PMR for vessels, and the opposite for joints. Vascular and joint inflammation were negatively correlated. Our data support the view that similarities exceed differences in these conditions, with clinical features depending from the relative contribution of vessel and joint involvement.
Disclosure of Interest: None declared

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SAT0523

EVALUATION OF VISUAL AFFECTION IN PATIENTS WITH GIANT CELL ARTERITIS TREATED WITH TOCILIZUMAB

D. Prieto-Peña 1, J. Loricera 1, C. Moriano 2, E. Diez 3, J. Náñez 2, A. Mera 4, E. Pérez-Pampín 5, V. Aldasoro 6, M. Varela 7, N. Álvarez-Rivas 8, C. Barbasán 9, C. Ordás-Calvo 1,0, J. González-V 7, N. Palom-Montana 1, L. Domínguez-Casas 1, M. Calderón-Gómez 1, J. Hernández 1, M. González-Gay 1, R. Blanco 1

1 Departments of Rheumatology, Internal Medicine and Pathology, Valdecilla, IDIVAL, Santander. 2CAU, León. 3Beit Bagai, Barcelona. 4CHU, Santiago. 5CH, Navarra. 6Lucus Augusti, Lugo. 7CHU, Vigo. 8Cabuérniga, Gijón. 9HU, Elda. 10Candelaria, Tenerife. 11Mareania, Sevilla. 12H, Castellón; 13H, Elche, Spain

Background: Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is a large vessel vasculitis that has a monoclonal antibody directed against the interleukin 6 receptor that has shown utility in the treatment of GCA.

Methods: We evaluated 20 patients (14 women and 6 men) with a mean age ±SD of 73.7±10.1 years with GCA and visual symptoms. In total there were 23 affected eyes.

Results: We evaluated 20 patients (14 women and 6 men) with a mean age ±SD of 73.7±10.1 years with GCA and visual symptoms. In total there were 23 affected eyes.

Conclusions: Although TCZ seems to be also useful in the treatment of visual manifestations of ACG, once blindness is established, it does not seem to be effective.

Disclosure of Interest: None declared


SAT0524

THE ROLE OF POLYMORPHISMS OF HEMOSTASIS GENES IN VENOUS THROMBOEMBOLIC EVENTS IN ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS

E. Malikov 1, N. Butanov 2, P. Novikov 1, T. Krasnova 1, A. Balatskii 1, L. Samokhodskaya 2, S. Moiseev 1

1Department of internal diseases, Lomonosov Moscow State University. 2E.M. Tareev Clinic Of Nephrology, Internal And Occupational Diseases; 3Rheumatology department, I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University. E.M. Tareev Clinic Of Nephrology, Internal And Occupational Diseases; 4Lomonosov Moscow State University, Medical Scientific And Educational Center, Moscow, Russian Federation

Background: The role of polymorphisms of hemostasis genes in venous thromboembolic events in ANCA-associated vasculitides.

Objectives: To evaluate the role of polymorphisms of hemostasis genes in the risk of VTE in AAV patients and to the clinical features of AAV.

Methods: We studied 85 patients with AAV [69 with granulomatosis with polyangitis (GPA), 11 with microscopic polyangiitis (MPA)], 5 with eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA) diagnosed according to the 2012 classification. There were 34 males and 51 females, aged of 55±12 years. Duration of follow-up was 74.0 (36.5;120.3) months. Coagulation gene polymorphisms MTHFR C677T (rs1801133), FV 1691 G/A (rs6025), FII 20120 G/A (rs1799963), FGB 455 G/A (rs1800790), PAI-1 675 5G/4G, ITGA2 807 C/T, PAI-1 144 G/A, F5 1691 G/A, FGB 455 G/A and FVFV 1691 G/A polymorphisms were associated with a significantly higher occurrence of VTE in patients with AAV (p<0.007) (table 1).

Conclusions: The combination of several genetic polymorphisms of hemostasis system is associated with an increased prevalence of VTE in AAV patients. The association between MTHFR C677T/G, FXIII 103G/T, FII 20120G/A, and FV 1691G/A polymorphisms was associated with a significantly higher occurrence of VTE in patients with AAV (p<0.007).

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