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AB0707 FOUR DISTINCT CLINICAL PHENOTYPES OF VASCULITIS AFFECTING MEDIUM-SIZED ARTERIES

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Background: Polyarteritis nodosa (PAN) is a necrotizing arteritis of medium-sized arteries. PAN is divided into systemic and cutaneous PAN (cPAN). cPAN is further classified into mild cPAN or severe cPAN, which presents with ulcer, necrosis, or neuritis. However, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between severe cPAN and systemic PAN, and their optimal managements are still unclear. The aim of this study is to evaluate clinical characteristics of patients with necrotizing arteritis of medium and small artery.

Objectives: To evaluate the clinical characteristics of patients with necrotizing arteritis of medium-sized arteries in order to further clarify the subtypes of PAN.

Methods: Forty-nine patients diagnosed with necrotizing arteritis of medium-sized arteries between 2008 and 2017 at our institution were enrolled to this study. Patients with evidence of glomerulonephritis or vasculitis in arterioles, capillaries, or venules, which are hallmarks of small-vessel vasculitis, were excluded. Clinical backgrounds, laboratory findings including inflammatory markers and antineutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA), affected organs, treatments, and rates of relapse and death were evaluated.

Results: Among 49 patients, 11 patients (22%) presented with systemic vasculitis. Organ involvement was diverse and ranged from central nervous system to cutaneous manifestations. The remaining 38 patients were diagnosed as cPAN and further classified as mild cPAN (16 patients) or severe cPAN (22 patients: ulcer type, 9; neuritis type, 9; both, 4). There was one case of cPAN which resulted in renal damage. The clinical characteristics of mild cPAN included female predominance (87.5%) and younger age (median, 32), and patients tend to have normal inflammatory markers and laboratory findings. Those of systemic PAN included older age (median, 69), higher levels of inflammatory markers, lower levels of serum proteins, and organ damage. Nonspecific elevation of autoantibodies is frequently observed. Particularly, 54.5% of systemic type possessed MPO-ANCA though the titers were significantly lower than those of microscopic polyangiitis, suggesting non-specific elevation of MPO-ANCA in Japanese population. Severe cPAN manifested with intermediate phenotypes, and inflammatory activities were significantly correlated with age ($p < 0.001$). Although the mortality rates were indistinguishable, the relapse rates of cPAN (ulcer type) were significantly higher than those of other types (88.9%, Figure). The mean doses of prednisolone (PSL) used to treat mild cPAN, severe cPAN, and systemic type were 18.5, 38.6, and 39.1 mg/day, respectively. Immunosuppressants were used in 20% of mild cPAN, 90.9% of severe cPAN, and 72.7% of systemic PAN patients. Most patients with cPAN (ulcer type) were initially treated by corticosteroid monotherapy, and immunosuppressive agents were added when they relapsed. Considering its high relapse rate, it might be reasonable to select combination therapy with cyclophosphamide for severe cPAN (ulcer type) as is proposed in nonsystemic vasculitic neuropathy.

Abstract AB0707 – Figure 1

Conclusions: The clinical characteristics of mild cPAN, severe cPAN (ulcer type), severe cPAN (neuritis type), and systemic PAN were distinct from each other. Particularly, patients with severe cPAN (ulcer type) had higher relapse rates, thus indicating the importance of combination therapy in this patient cohort.

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AB0708 THE USE OF TEMPORAL ARTERY BIOPSIES (TAB) IN DIAGNOSIS AND MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH GIANT CELL ARTERITIS (GCA)- A RE-AUDIT IN RHEUMATOLOGY IN THE BELFAST HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST (BHSC)

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Background: Patients should meet at least 3/5 American College of Rheumatology (ACR) criteria for a diagnosis of GCA. British Society of Rheumatology (BSR) guidelines on the management of GCA from 2010 emphasise the importance of early referral for specialist management. TAB should be considered depending on local experience and availability of other imaging modalities. Biopsy should be at least 10 mm in length and ideally done within 14 days of presentation. TABs performed in BHSC over a three-year period were audited in 2014.

Objectives: We re-audited the Rheumatology TAB referrals in the BHSC from August 2016 to August 2017 to assess how biopsies influenced the management of patients with GCA in comparison to the previous audit.

Methods: Histopathology based LabCentre search detected 36 TABs within the given period. A retrospective audit was carried out with the use of Electronic Care Record and 16 of these patients were Rheumatology based TAB referrals. A proforma was used to aid data collection.

Results: Female:Male ratio was 2.2:1, age range was 61–91 with a mean age of 76. 94% of patients presented with headache. Of those patients referred for biopsy, 100% already fulfilled 2 of ACR criteria, compared with only 80% in previous audit. TAB was positive in 25%. In those with a positive biopsy, 75% had an ESR >50. All patients were on steroid treatment at the time of biopsy. In 42% of patients with a negative biopsy, steroids were rapidly reduced. 100% of patients with a positive biopsy continued on steroids. 68% of biopsies were greater than 10 mm compared with 38% in the previous audit. 68% of patients had a TAB within 14 days of commencing on steroids, with 31% having biopsy within 7 days of commencing steroids. 63% of patients developed steroid related complications. In 56% of patients the biopsy result changed patient management.

Conclusions: The percentage of appropriate referrals for biopsy (based on the ACR criteria) has improved compared with the previous audit. The length of biopsy improved. 32% of patients were waiting longer than 2 weeks for biopsy but some of these patients presented late to the rheumatology team. Biopsy results changed management in 56% of patients. Areas for consideration include improvement in time to biopsy and biopsy length.

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AB0709 SWITCHING FROM ORIGINATOR INFlixIMAB TO BIOSIMILAR INFlixIMAB: EFFICACY AND SAFETY IN A COHORT OF PATIENTS WITH ESTABLISHED BEHÇET'S DISEASE

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Background: Infliximab (IFX) has been proved to be effective in several organ involvement of Behçet's Disease (BD). A recent report¹ describing rapid loss of efficacy of biosimilar IFX after switching from originator IFX suggests the necessity to exercise caution regarding the automatic substitution of originator IFX with biosimilar IFX in patients achieving remission with originator IFX.

Objectives: The purpose of the present study was to describe our experience with biosimilar IFX CT-P13 in patients affected with BD, who were switched from originator IFX.