DEVELOPMENT AND ASSESSMENT OF A STRUCTURED TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS

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REFERENCES:

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AB0765

INITIAL CHARACTERISATION OF WOMEN WITH BREAST IMPLANTS IN A GROUP OF PATIENTS WITH SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS REFERRED FOR AUTOLOGOUS HSTC

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Background: The causal relationship between breast implants (BI) and systemic sclerosis (SSc) is still strongly contested.

Objectives: To add further input to this medical controversy, we studied the initial clinical characteristics of patients with breast implants and systemic sclerosis that are referred to our centre for autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplant.

Methods: From 163 patients, with the diagnosis of systemic sclerosis (SSc), limited SSC, CREST, Morphea or scleroderma sine scleroderma, referred to our centre for autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation, 132 were found to be females. To identify those with breast implants (BI) or have a history of breast implants, we performed a systemic chart review for all patients. Once the patients with actual breast implant devices or have history of breast implants were identified, alive patients were contacted to check the type of their breast implants (silicone vs saline), the year of insertion, the local complications, whether they were removed or replaced and the year of removal and replacement, and the type of replacement if applicable. Clinical and biological data were collected for all patients and were compared between those who have breast implants or history if breast implants and those who do not have.

Results: From 132 patients with SSc or SSc variants, thirteen had history of BI (9.8%). In 12, the breast augmentation therapy preceded the development of SSc, with median time between BI insertion and the emergence of initial symptoms of SSc of 12 years (range 7–29). The remaining patient showed acceleration of her disease after BI surgery. Surprisingly, in all 12 patients for whom we could know the type of initial implants, the prostheses were saline. When we compared the clinical characteristics of those with BI and those without. Patients with BI appeared to have higher age (mean 49.95 vs 44.42 years, p=0.012, shorter time from initial symptoms to diagnosis (mean 4.76 vs 12.24 months, p=0.001), more frequently positive ANA (13/13 vs 89/114, p=0.06) and more frequently positive anti DNA polymerase III (7/10 vs 20/78, p=0.004).

Conclusions: Our data may support the hypothesis of a possible association between BI and SSc. Furthermore, these results raise questions regarding the safety of saline breast prosthesis. Finally, our finding may indicate a possible difference in the initial characteristics of SSc patients with BI and those without.

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AB0767

EFFICACY OF SUBCUTANEOUS TOCLIZUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND SYSTEMIC SCLEROSIS OVERLAP SYNDROME

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Background: Systemic sclerosis (SSc) is a connective tissue disease that develops sclerotic changes in the skin and visceral organs. SSc is a disease of uncertain etiology, characterized by fibrosis (cutaneous, cardiac, gastrointestinal, and renal complications contribute to patient morbidity and decreased survival). And patients present with stiffness of the limbs because of joint swelling and joint swelling in the skin and periaricular connective tissues. Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is a pleiotropic factor that plays a major role in inflammation; furthermore, IL-6 overexpression and pathogenicity in SSc have been demonstrated. IL-6 expression is reportedly high in both the skin and serum of SSc patients, and its elevation depends on the skin score. And it is a candidate factor that can reproduce the pathological conditions of SSc as well as RA.

Objectives: We report the cases of rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients with SSc who was administered anti-interleukin-6 receptor antibody tocilizumab (TCZ).

Methods: Two RA with refractory SSc patients were administered tocilizumab at 162 mg/kg twice a month for 12 months. RA disease activity is evaluated by DAS28-ESR and CDAI. Skin condition of SSc is evaluated by pinching the skin according to the modified Rodnan total skin score (mRTSS).

Results: They were both female, and age at the time of SSc diagnosis was 74 (patient 1) and 51 (patient 2) years old. The time lapse since SSc diagnosis was at first visit and 14 years, respectively. And it since RA diagnosis was 14 years and 6 months, respectively. Tocilizumab was administered at 162 mg every 2 weeks, which is equal to the dosage used for RA. Administration of prednisolone at 5 mg/day and DMARDS were continued. Overall, TCZ was well tolerated, and both patients experienced a general improvement in coping with normal daily activities. During the 12 month tocilizumab therapy, both RA disease activity and mRTSS decreased. The patient global assessment improved by 70 (75 to 5) and 44 (68 to 24) in patients 1 and 2 in 12 months, respectively. In RA disease activity, DAS28 decreased from 5.66 to 1.73 in 12 months in patient 1 and 7.14 to 4.43 in

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