combined with conventional IS drugs (7) at 8 mg/kg/iv/4 w (11) or 162 mg/sc/w (3).

Abstract THU0288 – Table 2.

TABLE. Evolution of ocular parameters with TCZ therapy in a long-term follow-up.

	BASAL n=26	1 WEEK n=20	2 WEEKS n=24	1 MONTH n=24	3 MONTH n=24	6 MONTH n=20	1 YEAR n=17	2 YEARS n=11	3 YEARS n=7	4 YEARS n=4
BCVA	0.38±0.3 5	0.46±0.3 4*	0.56±0.3 6*	0.58±0 38*	0.61±0.3 7*	0.65±0.3 7*	0.61±0.3 8*	0.61±0 33	0.63±0 29*	0.93±0 12
AC										
CELL	1 [0-3]	1 [0-2]*	0 [0-1]*	0 [0-0.75]*	0 [0-0.25]*	0 [0-0]*	0 [0-1]*	0 [0-0]	0 [0-0]	0 [0-0]
VITRIS										
TIS	1 [0-2]	1 [0-2]	0 [0-1]*	0 [0-1]*	0 [0-0]*	0 [0-0]*	0 [0-0]*	0 [0-0]*	0 [0-0]	0 [0-0]
OCT	339.9±11 0.1	329.3±10 9.1*	324.6±11 08.5	298.7±8 3.5	263.4±8 8.4*	251.8±8 7.4*	232.8±4 5.8*	245.8±2 9.9	247.25± 6.2	247.25± 6.2

*p<0.05

Abbreviations: AC= anterior chamber; BCVA= best corrected visual acuity; n= number of available eyes;

OCT= optical coherence tomography.

After a mean follow-up of 21.7±14.5 months using TCZ, all patients experienced ocular improvement, with complete remission in 10. However, TCZ was only effective in 5 of the patients with EOM. TABLE shows the evolution of ocular parameters.

TCZ had to be withdrawn temporarily in 1 case, due to an episode of cellulitis with sepsis, and definitely in 4 cases, due to a severe infusion reaction, arthritis impairment, persistence of oral ulcers or a new episode of uveitis (1 each). Prednisone dose was significantly reduced until suspension in all patients.

Conclusion: TCZ seems a useful and secure therapy in highly refractory BD-related uveitis.

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THU0289

PERSISTENCE OF CIRCULATING CRYOGLOBULINS AND RELATED SYMPTOMS AFTER HEPATITIS C VIRUS ERADICATION IN PATIENTS WITH MIXED CRYOGLOBULIN SYNDROME

Cinzia Roberta Bassoli¹, Letizia Oreni¹, Salvatore Sollima¹, Francesco Saccardo², Marco Sebastiani³, Caterina Vacchi³, Cesare Mazzaro⁴, Roberta Zani⁵, Clodoveo Ferri³, Anna Linda Zignego⁶, Giuseppe Monti², Giuseppina Brancaccio⁷, Ivan Gentile⁷, Mario Masarone⁸, Claudia Gabiati¹, Emanuele Pontali⁹, Laura Castelnovo², Vincenzo Messina¹⁰, Massimo Galli¹. ¹Milan, Milan, Italy; ²Saronno, Saronno, Italy; ³Modena, Modena, Italy; ⁴Aviano, Aviano, Italy; ⁵Brescia, Brescia, Italy; ⁶Florence, Florence, Italy; ⁷Naples, Naples, Italy; ⁸Salerno, Salerno, Italy; ⁹Genoa, Genoa, Italy; ¹⁰Palermo, Palermo, Italy

Background: The powerful drugs with direct antiviral action (DAA) against hepatitis C virus (HCV) has made it possible to eliminate the trigger factor of Mixed Cryoglobulin Syndrome (MCS) and to extend the treatment to patients who could not tolerate IFN-based antiviral regimens. However, the persistence of cryoglobulin production and MCS-related symptoms despite SVR achievement is frequently reported.

Objectives: The aim of this study was to assess the persistency rate of MCS-related clinical and laboratory indexes after successful treatment with DAA.

Methods: CRESO (CRYoglobulinaemia Eradication Study Observational) is a multicentre observational study promoted by the Italian Society of Infectious and Tropical Diseases (SIMIT) and the Italian Group for the Study of Cryoglobulinaemias (GISC), aimed to assess the impact of DAA therapy on MCS symptoms and cryoglobulin production. Patients could be enrolled if they presented, during the 12 months before the enrolment, a cryocrit ≥0.5% and, at least, one episode of palpable purpura or, alternatively, arthralgia and fatigue with at least one symptom among peripheral neuropathy, Raynaud's phenomenon, lower limb ulcers or nephropathy, and a C₄ level ≤8 mg/dL.

Results: The present analysis was based on clinical and laboratory data of 94 patients (75.5% female with a median age of 67.5 years) that have been followed up for a median time of 24 weeks (IQR 12-24) after SVR₁₂ achievement. At baseline the cryocrit was frankly positive in 85 (90.43%), detectable (>0.5%) in 4 and negative in 4 cases; patients with type II cryoglobulins and C₄ levels ≤8 mg/dL were prevalent, respectively with 81.5% and 75.9%. Low eGFR values (≤45 mL/min/1.73m²) were present in 12 cases (12.8%), 10 patients (10.6%) had a history of B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL), and 1 of hepatocellular carcinoma, while liver cirrhosis was diagnosed in 22 cases (23.4%) and glomerulonephritis in 17 cases (18.1%). Patients were treated for 12 (72 cases) or 24 (21 cases) weeks with a total of ten different IFN-free DAA regimens. SVR₁₂ was achieved in all 94 cases. Both prevalence and median cryocrit values decreased significantly after DAA treatment (p<0.0001), however, at the time of the last observation 56.4% of patients were still positive for MCs. The prevalence of purpura and fatigue significantly decreased (p<0.0001) as well sicca syndrome prevalence (p<0.015), while arthralgia and lower limb ulcers decrease did not reach statistical significance. In multivariate analysis, eGFR≤45 mL/min/1.73m² was an independent predictor of persistence of cryoglobulin production (AOR 7.7, CI 95% 1.6-37.2; p<0.011).

Conclusion: CRESO study data confirm the persistence of cryoglobulin production and MCS symptoms in some patients, despite the eradication of HCV. This finding rises questions about the possible further evolution of the disease over time regardless the persistence of its original trigger.

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THU0290

DISEASE AND TREATMENT-RELATED MORBIDITY IN YOUNG AND ELDERLY PATIENTS WITH ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS

Alvise Berti¹, Mara Felicetti², Sara Monti³, Augusta Ortolan², Roberto Padoan², Giuliano Brunoni¹, Roberto Bortolotti¹, Roberto Caporali³, Carlomaurizio Montecucco³, Franco Schiavon², Giuseppe Paolazzi¹. ¹Santa Chiara Hospital, Rheumatology, Trento, Italy; ²University of Padua, Rheumatology, Padua, Italy; ³University of Pavia, Rheumatology, Pavia, Italy

Background: Advancing age may be a risk factor for morbidity in anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA)-associated vasculitis (AAV).

Objectives: We aimed to compare the rates and better characterize the type of disease- and treatment-related complications affecting young and elderly patients with AAV.

Methods: All new cases of granulomatosis with polyangiitis or microscopic polyangiitis diagnosed between 2000 and 2016 in three referral centers in Northern Italy were included. Patients were stratified by age into young or elderly (<≥65 years old). Data were collected from time of diagnosis until end of follow-up, with scheduled annual visits or additional visits in case of relapse or complication requiring hospitalization.

Results: Of 141 patients included, 99 were young and 42 elderly at the time of AAV diagnosis. Median follow-up was 58.0 months (25-75% IQR, 31.0-60.0) in young and 48.0 months (25-75% IQR, 23.25-60.0) in elderly patients (p>0.05).

Overall, total chronic damage assessed by Vasculitis Damage Index (VDI) significantly increased in elderly patients compared to young ones during follow-up (=0.28, p<0.05). Although rates of the most common complications scored in the VDI (i.e. arterial hypertension, heart failure, ischemic cardiovascular complications, diabetes, and malignancy) accumulated over time when analyzed singularly, no difference between the two age groups was observed (p>0.05). Sixty-three (44.7%) patients had acute kidney injury due to AAV-glomerulonephritis at diagnosis, 37 were young and 26 were elderly. In these patients, renal function recovery in the first 6 months was significantly lower for elderly (median ΔeGFR (25-75%IQR), 5.3 (0.4-14) mL/min/1.73m²) compared to young patients (22.8 (5.9-52.1) mL/min/1.73m², p=0.008) while on induction treatment. Stratification for