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FRI0277 ISCHEMIC AND SYSTEMIC SYMPTOMS IN GIANT CELL ARTERITIS PATIENTS, RESPONSE TO TOCILIZUMAB

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Background: In Giant Cell Arteritis (GCA) two dominant cytokine clusters have been linked to disease activity, IL-6 – IL-17 axis (Th17) and IL-12 – IFN γ axis (Th1). The first one related to systemic symptoms and the second route responsible for ischemic symptoms. Tocilizumab (TCZ) performs its effect mainly by inhibiting Th17 axis and terminally Th1 route.

Objectives: Our aim was to evaluate the effect of TCZ on ischemic and systemic symptoms throughout the follow-up.

Methods: Retrospective, multicenter study of 134 patients diagnosed of GCA on treatment with TCZ. We evaluate the efficacy of TCZ by improving ischemic (visual involvement, headache, jaw claudication) and systemic symptoms (fever, constitutional syndrome, polymyalgia rheumatica (PMR)).

Results: We evaluated 134 patients (101 w/33 m) and its main symptoms at TCZ onset, **TABLE.** 73 (54.5%) patients presented PMR followed by headache in 70 (52.2%) cases, constitutional syndrome in 31 (23.1%) and visual involvement in 28 (20.9%) patients. After one month of treatment there was an important clinical improvement, persisting in 13.6% of patients PMR, 10.6% headache and 10.6% visual involvement. Throughout the follow-up, the improvement of ischemic symptoms was slower. At month 12, in 5.6% (4) of patients persisted with visual impairment, and 2.8% (2) patients presented headache and constitutional syndrome. However, the analytical improvement was statistically significant from the first month and sustained during follow-up.

Conclusion: According to the results of our study, we can conclude that in clinical practice, ischemic symptoms take longer to improve than systemic symptoms; being visual affectionation the most frequent symptom after 12 months of follow-up.

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	Basal	Month 1 n=132	Month 3 n=122	Month 6 n=99	Month 12 n=71
SYSTEMIC MANIFESTATIONS					
Fever, n (%)	9 (6.7)	0	1 (0.8)	1 (1.0)	1 (1.4)
Constitutional syndrome, n (%)	31 (23.1)	12 (9.1)	6 (4.9)	2 (2.0)	2 (2.8)
PMR, n (%)	73 (54.5)	18 (13.6)	14 (11.5)	4 (4.0)	0
ISCHEMIC MANIFESTATIONS					
Visual involvement, n (%)	28 (20.9)	14 (10.6)	9 (7.4)	5 (5.1)	4 (5.6)
Headache, n (%)	70 (52.2)	14 (10.6)	7 (5.7)	6 (6.1)	2 (2.8)
Jaw claudication, n (%)	14 (10.4)	0	0	1 (1.0)	1 (1.4)
ACUTE PHASE REACTANTS					
ESR, mm/1 st hour, mean (SD)	33 [14.5-61] ** (129)	6 [2-12] ** (102)	4 [2-7.5] ** (116)	4 [2-8] ** (93)	4 [2-8] ** (71)
CRP, mg/dL mean (SD)	1.7 [0.4-3.2] ** (131)	0.1 [0-0.5] ** (98)	0.1 [0-0.4] ** (110)	0.1 [0-0.2] ** (92)	0.1 [0-0.2] ** (67)

**p<0.001

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