INCIDENCE RATE OF HERPES ZOSTER IN RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS UNDER TOFACITINIB: REAL-LIFE DATA FROM TURKEY – HURBIO REGISTRY


Background: Tofacitinib (TOF) is an orally administered Janus Kinase (JAK) inhibitor and is commonly used in rheumatoid arthritis. There is a heterogeneity among numbers reported from different continents about herpes zoster (HZ) incidence rate (1-3). However, data about HZ risk in our country, which stands like a bridge between Asia and Europe, is lacking.

Objectives: To assess the real-life incidence of herpes zoster in RA patients under tofacitinib.

Methods: We analyzed all patients who had at least 1 control visit under tofacitinib and registered to HURBIO database. We calculated incidence rate by dividing the number of patients with herpes zoster to total follow-up years, then multiplied by 100 (per 100 patient-years).

Results: A total of 204 (174 (85.4%) female) patients were recruited. Mean age was 53.2±12.3 years. Mean disease duration was 11.5±8.1 years. Rheumatoid factor and anti-CCP antibodies were positive in 135/198 (68.1 %) and 115/171 (67.2 %) patients, respectively. Median follow-up while receiving TOF was 11.6 (IQR:5.2-26.2) months. Combination with DMARDs was used in 83.3% of patients. 55.5% of patients was biologic-naive. Eleven (5.3%; incidence rate: 3.9 (2.3-8.5; % 95 CI) per 100 patient-years) patients had herpes zoster. Ten of these patients was female, median age was 59 (IQR: 52-69) and 4 of them was older than 65 years-old. Rheumatoid factor was positive in 9 patients. Only 1 of these patients had diabetes. Median follow-up of these patients under TOF was 8.1(IQR: 6-25) months. Ten of these patients had concomitant DMARDs (9 hydroxychloroquine, 4 methotrexate, 2 lefunomide; according to last follow-up visit) and 9 of them received concomitant steroids (med(IQR): 4 (1-8) mg- at equivalent methyl-prednisolone dose). Eight of them was biologic-naive. Tofacitinib was discontinued in 4 of these patients.

Conclusion: In this real-life data from Turkey, we found a HZ incidence rate similar to that reported from USA and global data; however, we found a lower incidence rate that reported from Japan (Figure 1).

Disclosure of Interests: None declared.

References: