Conclusion: and after rituximab treatment (p>0.05)(Figure 1). p<0.05], while there were no statistical differences in the ESR and IgM between before (0.322, 2.422), I²=95.5%, p=0.010; SMD=1.102, 95%CI(0.102, 2.103), I²=93.6%, but also significant decreases in IgA and IgG [SMD=1.372, 95%CI (1.411, 3.167), I²=64.5%, p<0.001]. Four studies mentioned clinical responses, 91.9% of patients with SLE who received rituximab had distinct clinical remission compared with before (0.911, 2.483), I²=0.0%, p<0.001. We selected the effect model according to the heterogeneity of the meta-analysis. If I² < 50, a fixed effect model was used.

Methods: We systematically searched PubMed, EMBASE, Web of Science, Cochrane Library, CNKI, FDA.gov, Clinical trials.gov, Wanfang database, and Weipu database (from database inception to January 1, 2023) for studies of rituximab in the treatment of SLE. Observational studies, case series, and randomized controlled trials reporting the efficacy or safety data on SLE treated with rituximab were included in this meta-analysis. We selected the effect model according to the heterogeneity of the meta-analysis. If I² < 50, a fixed effect model was used.

Results: A total of 8 studies with a total of 353 patients were included. After treatment with rituximab, the SLEDAI scores were significantly decreased [SMD=2.289, 95%CI (1.411, 3.167), I²=64.5%, p<0.001]. Four studies mentioned clinical responses, 91.9% of patients with SLE who received rituximab had distinct clinical remission compared with before (0.911, 2.483), I²=0.0%, p<0.001. We selected the effect model according to the heterogeneity of the meta-analysis. If I² < 50, a fixed effect model was used.

Conclusion: Rituximab was effective and well-tolerated for the treatment of SLE, which had a low incidence of adverse events.

REFERENCE:


Figure 1. Efficacy and safety of rituximab in patients with SLE. (A) SLEDAI scores. (B) Remission rate. (C) Forest plot of the incidence of adverse events. (D) The complement C3. (E) The complement C4. (F) ESR. (G) Immunoglobulin A (IgA). (H) Immunoglobulin G (IgG). (I) Immunoglobulin M (IgM).