Error in the dosage of Methotrexate in the EULAR/ERA-EDTA recommendations for the management of ANCA-associated vasculitis

The EULAR/ERA-EDTA recommendations for the management of ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV)¹ are a pillar in the treatment of patients with these diseases worldwide. Hence, it is of the utmost importance that information, especially dosing be correct and therefore reliable. More than in some other rheumatic diseases AAV oftentimes requires treatment from a multi-disciplinary team. For physicians from other specialties dosing might not be as familiar as it is for rheumatologists.

Statement 7 of the recommendations suggests a dose of Methotrexate with 20–25 mg/kg/week for remission maintenance of AAV. This recommended dose would almost certainly be toxic and lead to complications or even death. Patients die every year from wrong dosing of Methotrexate.

I suggest that in the future, before publishing recommendations for the management of rheumatic diseases an additional layer of security be implemented by separate review of every suggested dose of every medication in the publication for mistakes or typos because every mistake, howsoever small, can have far reaching consequences for our patients.

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