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SARS-CoV-2 asymptomatic infection in a patient under treatment with dupilumab

Dear Editor,

We have read with great interest the letter of the European Task Force on Atopic Dermatitis on SARS-CoV-2 infection and atopic dermatitis published in *JEADV* (March 2020)¹ in which the authors state: ‘Targeted treatment selectively interfering with type-2 inflammation such as dupilumab is not considered to increase the risk for viral infections and might thus be preferred ... in a situation such as COVID-19 pandemic’.¹

We would like to report the case of a 72-year-old man affected by severe atopic dermatitis (histologically ascertained), who is under treatment with dupilumab since November 2019, with excellent clinical results.

At the beginning of SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in Italy, although he was totally asymptomatic for COVID-19, as all the other residents in Vo’ Euganeo, a small town near Padua, in the so-called ‘Vo’ Red Zone’ (i.e. restricted area), he was tested with nasopharyngeal swab for SARS-CoV-2 detection and resulted positive.

After 20 days of isolation period, the nasopharyngeal swab for SARS-CoV-2 resulted again positive. After 20 more days of isolation, he was tested positive for the third time. Three weeks later, the nasopharyngeal swab for SARS-CoV-2 was finally negative. Notwithstanding the risk factors (i.e. age >65 years and male gender), our patient throughout all this period (9 weeks) remained totally asymptomatic for COVID-19, in good general condition and free of atopic dermatitis.

It would seem that treatment with dupilumab, similarly to other antibodies targeting pro-inflammatory cytokines (e.g. adalimumab, infliximab, ustekinumab, secukinumab and guselkumab), does not worsen the condition of patients infected by SARS-CoV-2 or increase the risk of infection by SARS-CoV-2,^{2–7} possibly because these antibodies neutralize individual mediators of the inflammation cascade rather than leading to broad immunosuppression.⁸



However, of course, more robust clinical data are needed in order to evaluate the safety of dupilumab and of other biologics in patients infected by SARS-CoV-2.

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‘Toxic erythema’ and eosinophilia associated with tocilizumab therapy in a COVID-19 patient

Dear Editor,

Since the new fatal pneumonia was identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China, the WHO declared the infection a health emergency of international concern.