

Azathioprine/prednisolone

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COVID-19 infection: case report

A 5-year-old boy developed COVID-19 infection in the setting of prednisolone and azathioprine therapy for autoimmune hepatitis (AIH).

The boy had underlying type 1 diabetes mellitus (T1DM), controlled with insulin. On 17 January 2020, he presented with hepatomegaly and elevated aminotransferase levels. Following further investigations, AIH was diagnosed. He received prednisolone 2 mg/kg/day for 2 weeks (29 January 2020). Thereafter, prednisolone was tapered and azathioprine 50mg daily was started. On the third month of therapy (8 April 2020), he presented with fever, cough and ear ache. His mother stated that they had been in contact with a COVID-19 positive person. He had fever, and physical examination showed left tympanic membrane hyperaemia. PCR (of a throat swab sample) was positive for COVID-19.

The boy's azathioprine treatment was discontinued. However, prednisolone was continued at 8 mg/day, with close follow-up at outpatient clinic. Repeat PCR tests on 14 April 2020 and 21 April 2020 showed negative COVID-19 results.

Yuksel M, et al. Immune monitoring of a child with autoimmune hepatitis and type 1 diabetes during COVID-19 infection. *European Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology* 32: 1251-1255, No. 9, Sep 2020

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