

Convalescent-anti-SARS-CoV-2-plasma/remdesivir/rituximab

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COVID-19 infection, and lack of efficacy following off-label use: 20 case reports

In an observational, retrospective study of 28 patients, conducted between May 2020 and March 2021, 20 patients (11 women and 9 men) aged 27–78 years were described, who developed COVID-19 infection during treatment with rituximab or exhibited a lack of efficacy during treatment with remdesivir or off-label convalescent-anti-SARS-CoV-2-plasma [convalescent plasma] for COVID-19 infection [*not all indications and routes stated; dosages and duration of treatments to reaction onsets not stated*].

Of the 20 patients, 14 patients had been previously treated with rituximab and developed COVID-19 infection. Subsequently, they were hospitalised for COVID-19 treatment. One of these patients received off-label treatment with convalescent-anti-SARS-CoV-2-plasma infusion and 2 patients received remdesivir and off-label convalescent-anti-SARS-CoV-2-plasma infusion, who exhibited a lack efficacy. Of the remaining 6 patients, 1 patient received off-label convalescent-anti-SARS-CoV-2-plasma infusion and 5 patients received off-label treatment with convalescent-anti-SARS-CoV-2-plasma and remdesivir treatment, who exhibited a lack of efficacy. Additionally, the patients received unspecified corticosteroids and anticoagulants including enoxaparin sodium [enoxaparin], tinzaparin sodium [tinzaparin], dalteparin [dalteparin sodium] or warfarin.

Subsequently, the patients showed improvement in COVID-19 (11 patients). Within 30 days, 4 patients died [*exact causes of death not stated*].

Ljungquist O, et al. Convalescent plasma treatment in severely immunosuppressed patients hospitalized with COVID-19: an observational study of 28 cases. *Infectious Diseases* 54: 283-291, No. 4, Apr 2022. Available from: URL: <http://doi.org/10.1080/23744235.2021.2013528>

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