Pediatric Rheumatology

Poster presentation

Rituximab is a therapeutical option for juvenile microscopic polyangiitis

J Brunner*[1], M Freund[2], M Prelog[1], E Binder[1], M Sailer-Höck[1], T Jungraithmayr[1], G Mayer[3] and LB Zimmerhackl[1]

Address: [1]Department of Pediatrics, Innsbruck Medical University, Innsbruck, Austria, [2]Department of Radiology, Innsbruck Medical University, Innsbruck, Austria and [3]Department of Nephrology, Innsbruck Medical University, Innsbruck, Austria

* Corresponding author

from 15th Paediatric Rheumatology European Society (PreS) Congress
London, UK. 14–17 September 2008

Published: 15 September 2008

Pediatric Rheumatology 2008, **6**(Suppl 1):P268 doi:10.1186/1546-0096-6-S1-P268

This abstract is available from: http://www.ped-rheum.com/content/6/S1/P268

Introduction

Microscopic polyangitiis is characterized by anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibodies (ANCA) and small vessel vasculitis. The diseases usually respond to cyclophosphamide (Cyc) but some patients are therapy resistant. Rituximab (RIT) is a chimeric antibody to CD20 causing lysis of B-lymphocytes and used for treatment of lymphomas. RIT has also been successfully used in patients with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), idiopathic thromobocytopaenic purpura, autoimmune haemolytic anaemia, cold agglutinin disease, systemic lupus erythematosus and vasculitides.

Case report

A 16-year old female patient with hemoptysis, nephritis, dermatitis was diagnosed as a myeloperoxidase-ANCA-positive microscopic polyangiitis. The patient was resistant to conventional therapy or had relapsed repeatedly after cessation of cyclophosphamide (Cyc). The patient was treated with intravenous infusions of rituximab (RIT).

Conclusion

RIT seems promising and safe in pediatric microscopic polyangiitis. Controlled studies should be conducted.