

Poster presentation

Rituximab in ANA positive polyarticular juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) with uveitis

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We report the case of a 15 year old girl with an 8 year history of difficult to control polyarticular ANA +ve, RF -ve, JIA with severe right sided uveitis treated with Rituximab based on the NICE approved regime for adult rheumatoid arthritis.

She presented at the age of 7 years with a 6 week history of painful arthritis involving both ankles, knees, left elbow and left middle PIP joints. Subsequently there was progression to include wrists, TMJs, with erosive disease in both hips and ankles, and intermittent wheelchair use. She was treated with 15–20 mg/m² of Methotrexate, tried on full dose Etanercept for 12 months, then Infliximab for 6 months, followed by Adalimumab for 6 months. Ciclosporine was added for a 3 DMARD approach but stopped due to hypertension. Throughout she always required additional multiple intra-articular steroid injections and methylprednisolone infusions (and topical Pred Forte eye drops) to maintain her in reasonable remission. After much consideration she was treated with Rituximab 1 gm by intravenous infusion repeated 2 weeks later and sub-cutaneous methotrexate continued. Since then she has remained in arthritis free remission for 7 months but her uveitis is unchanged in severity. CHAQ scores fell from 1.5 pre-treatment to 0.4 post treatment and active joint counts fell from 5 to 0. Rituximab may be useful in polyarticular JIA resistant to anti-TNF therapy and we recommend a drug trial for this small group of patients.

References

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