

Enoxaparin sodium/prednisolone

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Lack of efficacy and off label use: case report

An 81-year-old man exhibited lack of efficacy during anticoagulant treatment with enoxaparin sodium for prevention of thromboembolism events. Subsequently, he received off label treatment with prednisolone for COVID-19 infection.

The man was hospitalised in March 2020 due to flu-like symptoms, cough and dyspnoea for 7 days. His medical history was significant for hypertension and prostate adenocarcinoma treated with radiotherapy 2 years prior. On admission, he was diagnosed with COVID-19 infection. He started receiving empirical antibiotic treatment with amoxicillin/clavulanic acid and anticoagulant treatment with SC enoxaparin sodium 4000IU once a day for prevention of thromboembolism. After 7 days, antibiotic therapy was switched to ceftriaxone due to poor clinical response. Despite preventive anticoagulation therapy, he developed pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis occurred on day 14 after date of first onset (dso) of COVID-19. Therefore, he was treated with apixaban. An ECG was normal and a transthoracic echocardiogram (TTE) performed one month after dso showed a normal left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF), normal left ventricular (LV) volume and no wall kinetic disorder. Oxygen supplementation through a nasal cannula withdrawal was not possible until day 50 after dso. He was treated with off label prednisolone 60 mg/day [route not stated] for COVID-19 for 7 days followed by progressive weaning over 12 days. Respiratory evolution was favourable, and he was discharged on day 78 dso. At 6 months, despite a good functional recovery, he presented pulmonary sequelae. On detailed investigations, he was diagnosed with active myocarditis based on TTE abnormalities and cardiac magnetic resonance using Lake Louise Criteria, T1 and T2 mapping.

Meyer M, et al. Presence of active myocarditis at the 6 month follow-up appointment for a severe form of COVID-19: a case report. ESC heart failure 8: 4307-4312, No. 5, Oct 2021. Available from: URL: <http://doi.org/10.1002/ehf2.13461>

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