ANCA ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS: OUR EXPERIENCE FROM A TERTIARY CARE CENTER OVER 10 YEARS

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Background: The anti-neutrophil cytoplasmic antibody (ANCA)- associated vasculitides (AAV) are a group of disorders characterized by necroizing inflammation of the small to medium vessels in association with autoantibodies. Childhood ANCA vasculitides are rare but can cause organ or even life-threatening systemic vasculitis. Children most frequently present with rapidly evolving, severe disease.

Objectives: To describe the clinical spectrum of ANCA associated vasculitides over a period of 10 years from 2008 to 2018.

Methods: A single-centre retrospective analysis of ANCA associated vasculitides over a period of 10 years from 2008 to 2018.

Results: Six children (2 boys; 4 girls) were diagnosed to have AAV during this period. Median age at diagnosis was 11.25 years (range 8-18 years). Median delay in diagnosis was 1.5 months (range 1-8 months). Six children (2 boys; 4 girls) were diagnosed to have AAV over a period of 10 years from 2008 to 2018.

Table: Characteristics of children enrolled in study

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A SINGLE CENTRE RETROSPECTIVE ANALYSIS OF EFFICACY AND SAFETY BETWEEN LOW-DOSE VERSUS HIGH-DOSE RITUXIMAB AS REMISSION INDUCTION THERAPY IN JAPANESE PATIENTS WITH ANCA-ASSOCIATED VASCULITIS

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Background: Administration of four once-weekly doses of 375 mg/m² rituximab (RTX) has been indicated for ANCA-associated vasculitis (AAV) as remission induction therapy. However, randomized controlled trial for Japanese AAV patients have never been conducted, although Japanese AAV patients are characterized by the predominance of elderly patients with microscopic polyangiitis (MPA).

Objectives: To compare the efficacy and safety between low-dose versus high-dose RTX therapy as remission induction therapy in Japanese patients with AAV.

Methods: A single center retrospective analysis of 27 consecutive AAV patients with RTX therapy was performed. Clinical and laboratory variables at diagnosis, rates of complete remission (CR), defined as Birmingham Vasculitis Activity Score (BVAS)=0 and prednisone <7.5 mg/day, adverse effects, and vasculitis relapses following RTX use.

Results: Twenty-five MPA patients and 2 GPA patients (14 males and 13 females) were included in the present study. Twenty-six patients were positive for MPO-ANCA. Their median age was 77 years (range: 40-85 years). Treatments were determined according to the discretion of the attending physician. As remission induction therapy, 18 patients were treated with once or twice (1/2) RTX infusions (375 mg²/m²), while 9 patients with 3 or 4 times (3/4) RTX infusions. At 6 months, 55.6% of the 1/2 infusion group (10/18) and 44.4% of the 3/4 infusion group (4/9) reached CR. At 6 months, mean PSL levels were 7.8 mg/day in the 1/2 infusion group and 6.6 mg/day in the 3/4 infusion group. At 18 months, 88.9% of the 1/2 infusion group (16/18) and 77.8% of the 3/4 infusion group (7/9) were survived. 0% of the 1/2 infusion group (0/18) and 33.3% of the 3/4 infusion group (3/9) were relapsed. Severe adverse effects occurred in 36.9% of the 1/2 infusion group (7/18) and in 22.2% of the 3/4 infusion group (2/9). Conclusion: Our retrospective analysis indicated that cumulative CR rates and PSL tapering did not significantly differ between low-dose versus high-dose RTX as remission induction therapy in Japanese AAV patients, mostly elderly MPA patients, although there was no significant difference in severe adverse effects such as opportunistic infections between them.

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POSITIVE PREDICTIVE VALUE OF THE GIANT CELL ARTERITIS DIAGNOSIS IN THE DANISH NATIONAL PATIENT REGISTRY: A VALIDATION STUDY

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Background: Giant cell arteritis (GCA) is the most frequent systemic vasculitis[1]. The diagnosis is clinical and based on symptoms, histopathology, biochemistry and imaging. In Denmark, diagnostic codes for all in- and out-patient hospital diagnoses are registered in the Danish National Patient Registry (DNPR) [2]. Since GCA can be difficult to diagnose and treatment is initiated on suspicion, we hypothesized that the overall positive predictive value (PPV) of the GCA diagnosis code in the DNPR is low. High data quality is important for future epidemiological research in GCA.

Objectives: To establish PPV of the diagnostic code of GCA in the DNPR. Furthermore, to identify characteristics associated with a high PPV of the diagnostic code.

Methods: 293 patients aged ≥50 years with a first-time register-based GCA diagnosis were included from the DNPR in the period January 2012-January 2018. Patients were sampled based on the ICD-10 codes (M51.5 and M51.6) from two regional hospitals and one university hospital in the Central Region of Denmark. As gold standard we used the medical records (including biochemistry, histopathology and imaging results) and categorized each patient as true GCA or non-GCA. Based on the data from the prescription database, patients were divided into four categories depending on the number of prednisolone prescriptions they received. Two independent investigators (PH and PT) reviewed the medical records. In case of disagreement the final diagnosis was reached by consensus or by expert opinion (ITH). To test how the PPV varied,

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