Tofacitinib

Oesophageal ulcers secondary to viral infection: case report

A 26-year-old man developed oesophageal ulcers secondary to viral infection during treatment with tofacitinib for ulcerative colitis (UC).

The man was admitted for treatment of UC. He had received treatment with mesalazine [mesalamine], unspecified steroid, immunomodulators and anti-TNFα anti-body. However, it was difficult to maintain remission. Upon admission, extensive investigations were performed. Thereafter, an induction therapy was started with oral tofacitinib 10mg twice daily. Mesalazine was also continued. Following the successful remission induction, he was discharged. Clinical remission was maintained. However 44 days following the initiation of tofacitinib, he developed chest pain. He was admitted again. An oesophagastroduodenoscopy (EGD) revealed multiple ulcers from middle to lower oesophagus. Biopsy revealed neutrophil infiltration and intranuclear inclusion bodies. Oesophageal ulcers secondary to viral infection was suspected and was attributed to immunosuppression caused by tofacitinib treatment.

The man’s treatment with tofacitinib was stopped. Thereafter, the symptom disappeared in several days. Repeat EGD after 12 days showed improvement of the ulcers. An immunochemical staining and real-PCR using biopsy tissue and serological tests did not identify the specific virus.

In view of UC, the man’s reintitated tofacitinib in a reduced dosage i.e. 5mg twice daily and was discharged. At the last observation, his UC was in remission.

Tominaga K, et al. Multiple esophageal ulcers due to tofacitinib 10 mg twice daily for ulcerative colitis. Clinical Journal of Gastroenterology 13: 340-343, No. 3, Jun 2020.
Available from: URL: http://doi.org/10.1007/s12328-019-01061-y