



URTICARIA, ANGIOEDEMA

OMALIZUMAB FOR TREATMENT OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHRONIC URTICARIA - OUR EXPERIENCE

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Introduction: Chronic urticaria (CU) is characterised by itchy hives, occurring for at least 6 weeks. Unlike the chronic inducible urticaria (CindU), chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU) occurs without any known external trigger (e.g. physical event, allergen). Omalizumab is a monoclonal anti-IgE antibody approved for the treatment of CSU in patients, resistant to H1 antihistamines, which are the mainstay treatment.

Objective: Evaluate the safety and efficacy of omalizumab use in patients with CU, treated in our Department of Dermatovenereology.

Materials and Methods: We considered 38 patients with CU, treated with omalizumab at our Department between December 2014 and August 2018. The study population comprised 24 females (63.2%) and 14 males (36.8%) aged 17-81 (avg. 46.1) years. 16 patients had isolated CSU. 15 had CSU with additional CindU. 7 patients were treated off-label for CindU: 3 patients had cholinergic urticaria, 2 patients cold urticaria, 1 patient delayed pressure urticaria and 1 patient solar urticaria.

300 mg of omalizumab was administered every 4 weeks in 35 patients, while 1 patient received 150 mg/4 weeks and 2 patients received an updose of 450 mg/4 weeks.

Results: Average baseline UAS7 was 27.8 with 52.6% of patients reporting severe urticaria (UAS7 28-42). The resulting average UAS7 was 3.3. There were 22 (57.9%) early responders (UAS7 \leq 6 before week 4), 16 of them complete responders (UAS7 0). Altogether, 21 patients were complete responders before last omalizumab administration (UAS7 0). We also report successful treatment of patients with isolated CindU, UAS7 \leq 15 in all seven of them, 3 of them as complete responders.

Severe side effects have not been observed. 78.9% patients had no side effects, while 8 patients reported mild side effects.

Conclusions: Our report shows high efficacy and tolerability of omalizumab in patients with





CSU as well as CindU, refractory to treatment with antihistamines.

