

TREATMENT WITH RITUXIMAB IN PATIENTS WITH RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS (RA) AND ETANERCEPT-INDUCED LUPUS-LIKE SYNDROME
LATORRE MC, MANTILLA RD
Clinica De Artritis y Rehabilitacion Bogota, Colombia.

BACKGROUND

There are been reports with cases of lupus induced for medicaments, like as hydrazine, chlorpromazine, isoniazid. Biologics agents develop autoantibodies and autoimmune like diseases including lupus-like syndromes. We report the case of two women, diagnosed with seropositive RA, who developed a lupus like syndrome treated with etanercept and received treatment with Rituximab.

CASE 1

47-years old, woman, she was treated unsuccessfully with multiple nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs, hydroxychloroquine, sulfasalazine, methotrexate, gold compounds and D Penicillamine and steroids given intermittently in tapering dosages. Etanercept was initiated and two years after she presented pericarditis, pleural effusion, arthritis, proteinuria, hematuria, leukopenia, ANA 1/2560 Anti dsDNA 1/160, anticardiolipin anti bodies positive. These characteristics don't resolved with discontinuation etanercept. She received treatment with Rituximab resolved all symptoms.

CASE 2

49-years old, woman, she was received nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs, prednisolone, choroquine, methotrexate, sulfasalazine, D Penicillamine, cyclosporine, leflunomide, gold compounds, with adverse effects. She was treated with etanercept, and seven months later, it presented malar rash, photosensitivity, leukopenia, aphthous ulcers in mouth, ANA 1/1280 Anti dsDNA Negative, and proteinuria. Etanercept is suspended, but it not improvement and we initiated Rituximab presenting remission.

CONCLUSIONS

It would be possible to be considered the use of the Rituximab in treatment of etanercept-induced lupus-like syndrome, if don't improved with discontinuation of the biologic therapy. B cells depletion may be an alternative treatment for patients with RA and Etanercept-induced lupus-like syndrome.