

POSTER PRESENTATION

Open Access

Case series: rituximab in the treatment of refractory sight-threatening scleritis

Kiki van Bilzen^{1*}, P Martin van Hagen¹, Tom Missotten³, Seerp G Baarsma³, Robert W Kuijpers², Jan AM van Laar¹

From 6th European Workshop on Immune-Mediated Inflammatory Diseases
Nice, France. 23-25 November 2011

Purpose

Scleritis is a chronic vasculitis of scleral vessels leading to a substantial amount of morbidity and even blindness. Oral steroids and intensive immunosuppressive treatments are

often used to to achieve long-term control of disease. But those drugs have severe adverse effects and there is a significant number of non-responders. We describe six patients with refractory scleritis who received rituximab.

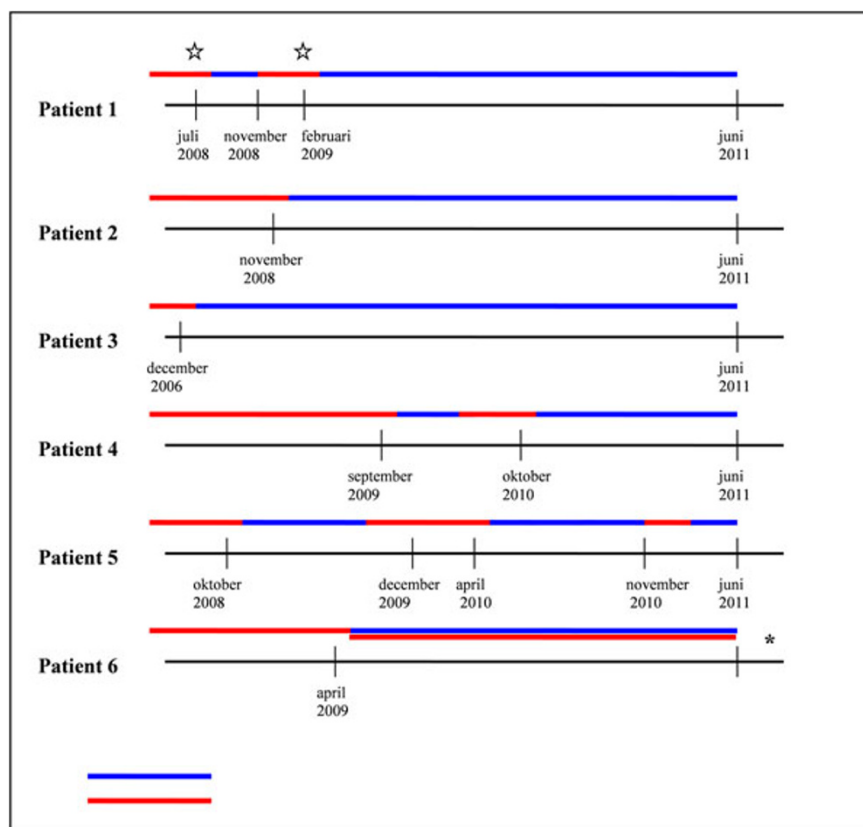


Figure 1

¹Dept. of Internal Medicine/Clinical Immunology, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

Methods

A case series of six patients (aged 39-66) with refractory scleritis (4 idiopathic, 2 relapsing polychondritis), including B cell monitoring. One treatment cycle consisted of 1000 mg initially and 1000 mg two week later. Prior to infusion 100 mg methylprednisolon was administered i.v.

Results

In all patients disease activity decreased. However, in four patients symptoms returned resp. 2,4,6 and 9 months after therapy. In two cases complete remission was achieved. Two patients received a second rituximab cycle successfully. No correlation was found between B cells reoccurrence and refractory disease. [Figure 1]

Conclusions

Clinical activity of scleritis in all patients decreased after treatment. In two cases scleritis went in complete remission after one cycle of treatment. Rituximab may be a new promising therapeutic tool in the treatment of refractory scleritis. There is no correlation between relapses and B cell recovery.

Author details

¹Dept. of Internal Medicine/Clinical Immunology, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. ²Dept of Ophthalmology, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. ³The Rotterdam Eye Hospital, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Published: 23 November 2011

doi:10.1186/1479-5876-9-S2-P12

Cite this article as: van Bilzen *et al.*: Case series: rituximab in the treatment of refractory sight-threatening scleritis. *Journal of Translational Medicine* 2011 **9**(Suppl 2):P12.

**Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central
and take full advantage of:**

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at
www.biomedcentral.com/submit

