



ACNE, ROSACEA, AND RELATED DISORDERS (INCLUDING HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA)

HIDRADENITIS SUPPURATIVA: FIRST PATIENT TREATED WITH ADALIMUMAB IN ALBANIA

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Background: Hidradenitis suppurativa (HS) is a chronic, inflammatory, relapsing disease of the apocrine glands in the skin. Patients typically present with discomfort and/or itching associated with papules or nodules that may recur and lead to abscess formation and sinus tracts. Recent reports have demonstrated that Adalimumab, a tumor necrosis factor (TNF- α) antagonist, may be effective in the treatment of patients with HS who have failed conventional therapy.

Observation: A 40 year old man with a 20-year history of HS presented for treatment of painful purulent draining sinuses, cysts and nodules involving his neck, axillae, buttocks and groin. Prior treatments for his HS included multiple courses of oral antibiotics and aggressive surgical resection, ultimately all with unsuccessful outcomes. He continued to have active persistent disease. Cultures from the lesions were positive for Escherichia coli. No family history for HS. BMI 33,9. Heavy smoker. Medical history otherwise unremarkable. After failure of all the other treatments the patient began therapy with Adalimumab. We chose adalimumab over infliximab because of the convenience of home administration. Before treatment was initiated, the patient underwent purified protein derivate testing, a complete blood cell count, chest radiography, a chemistry panel an antinuclear antibody panel, hepatitis B,C and human immunodeficiency virus antibody panel, which showed no abnormalities. He had a prompt and dramatic response to his initial injection of 80mg adalimumab and continues to improve gradually on a regimen of injections of 40mg every other week. A very interesting fact is that after starting treatment with adalimumab the patients was full of energy, he could do anything and not get tired. Weight loss and smoking cessation were recommended.

Key message: Adalimumab may resolve symptoms of HS when conventional therapy fails.

