



PSORIASIS

HIGH INCIDENCE OF LATENT TUBERCULOSIS INFECTION IN INDIGENT PATIENTS RECEIVING BIOLOGICS IN NEW YORK CITY.

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Introduction: Despite the known association between the use of biologic medications and reactivation of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) the rate of LTBI among indigent Hispanic psoriatic patients living in the U.S. has not been studied. Little is known about the overall impact LTBI may pose on their treatment of psoriasis and/or psoriatic arthritis.

Objective: To determine the incidence of LTBI in Hispanic psoriatic patients treated with biologics in at Metropolitan Hospital, a hospital delivering free care in New York City.

Materials and Methods: 95 patients were included in our retrospective study of patients treated from March 2010 to June 2018. TB status was determined using the results of PPD screening, chest X-ray and documentation of chemoprophylaxis. Risk factors for TB infection were documented. Lastly, time from diagnosis of LTBI to start of biologic therapy was assessed.

Results: Among the 95 patients included, LTBI was diagnosed in 41 patients. This represents 43% of the charts reviewed. 82.9% (n=34/41) of these patients received a diagnosis of LTBI prior to starting biologics. 17.1% (n=7/41) of LTBI patients initially had a negative screening test before receiving biologics but converted to a positive result after treatment began. There were no active TB cases. Chemoprophylaxis was given to 78% (n=32/41) of the LTBI patients. Initiation of biologics was delayed in 63.4% of patients receiving treatment for LTBI (n=26/41) for an average of 5.6 months.

Conclusions: Both the LTBI rate and conversion rate from negative to positive in our patient population was higher than the rates estimated for the United States., New York City and Spain. Treatment of LTBI can lead to delay in starting biologic therapy and can complicate the treatment course of psoriasis and/or psoriatic arthritis. In cities with a similar population, special vigilance should be made to monitor patients for TB while using biologics.

