



PSORIASIS

SEVERE PSORIASIS VULGARIS TREATED WITH MYCOPHENOLATE MOFETIL: A TREATMENT CHALLENGE

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Background: Systemic therapy is given to severe psoriasis vulgaris with Body Surface Area (BSA) >30%. Currently there are various types of systemic therapy with indications, efficacy, dosage, and different side effects. The use of systemic therapy should give priority to patient safety as side effects may arise especially in long-term use. Severe psoriasis vulgaris are rare treated with mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) and for the first time at Dr. Moh. Hoesin Hospital Palembang Indonesia.

Observation: A 40-year old woman, complained of multiple erythematous papules-plaques and scales in the facies, truncus, and extremities, along with itching since 8 weeks ago. PASI score was found to be 20.4 with BSA of 50%. Histopatologic examination supporting the diagnosis of psoriasis vulgaris. Methotrexate remains the first line treatment of psoriasis. However, due to poor accessibility, cyclosporine was made the next choice but in 2 hours following consumption, the patient developed angioedema. Cyclosporine administration was then stopped. As a substitute, the patient was given MMF in a dosage of 2 grams/day and tapered down gradually until 12 weeks. The patient came for check-up and complained of nausea and decreased appetite. PASI score was 2.4 and BSA of 2%. Sclera of ocular dextra et sinistra appeared jaundiced. There are no hepatomegaly and splenomegaly. Blood examination showed increased SGOT, SGPT, Gamma GT, and bilirubin levels. Immunoserologic check-up of hepatitis virus were non-reactive. Abdominal ultrasound showed no obstruction. The patient was diagnosed with Drug Induced Liver Injury (DILI). MMF therapy was then stopped.

Key message: One case of severe psoriasis vulgaris treated using MMF has been reported. MMF appears to be an effective therapeutic alternative in the treatment of severe psoriasis. Controlled clinical trials are required to evaluate further the efficacy of MMF, especially long-term side-effects. It takes the right knowledge so the patient can obtain optimal management.

