

URTICARIA, ANGIOEDEMA

## EVALUATION OF FACTORS AFFECTING DRUG SURVIVAL AND TREATMENT RESPONSES OF THE PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC URTICARIA ON OMALIZUMAB TREATMENT

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**Introduction:** Chronic urticaria(CU) is defined as urticaria and/or angioedema occurring for at least 6 weeks. In the guidelines, omalizumab is recommended for a third-line treatment for patients whose symptom control cannot be achieved by increasing doses of H1 antihistamines.

**Objective:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the factors affecting drug survival and treatment response of chronic urticaria patients treated with omalizumab in a tertiary health care center.

**Materials and Methods:** Data were retrieved via retrospective review of patient records who were followed in our clinic. Patients  $\geq 12$ -year-old who were clinically diagnosed with CU and treated with omalizumab were included.

Demographic characteristics, laboratory parameters, etiological factors, total number of omalizumab injections, treatment responses (Urticaria activity score(UAS7), urticaria control test(UCT)), side effects, relapse times, number of patients discontinuing treatment and reasons for drug discontinuation were retrieved.

**Results:** A total of 386 cases were identified. 269(69.7%) of the participants were female and 117(30.3%) were male. 338(87.6%) of the cases were CSU and 48(12.4%) were found as CINDU. 74 patients with CSU (21.8%) had also CINDU. The total number of omalizumab ranged from 1-55 and the mean number of injections was  $8.8 \pm 7.0$ . Side effects(6.4%) were observed in 25 cases, most commonly urticaria and flu-like symptoms. 258(66.8%) of the cases had an average of  $2.6 \pm 2.0$  months in the  $UCT \geq 12$  and 229(59.3%) of the cases had a mean of  $2.3 \pm 2.0$  months in  $UAS \leq 6$ . 153 patients had remission(59.3%), 43 patients had no follow-up(16.6%), 35 patients had ineffectiveness(13.5%), 18 patients had exacerbation of disease. D-dimer was negative in 170 cases(76.2%) and was associated with well-controlled disease( $p=0.012$ ;  $p < 0.05$ ).

**Conclusions:** Omalizumab is an effective treatment option for the treatment of chronic



urticaria and side effects are rarely seen. Plasma D-dimer level can be followed as a parameter in evaluating disease control.

