



URTICARIA, ANGIOEDEMA

## SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF SEVERE CHOLINERGIC URTICARIA WITH OMALIZUMAB

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**Background:** Cholinergic urticaria characterized by pin-sized wheals surrounded by erythema with severe pruritus, brought on by physical stimuli such as an increase in body temperature, passive warming, physical exercise and emotional stress. Although these symptoms usually subside within several hours, the episodes appear often in daily life, and most such patients complain of serious stinging and tingling pain resulting in a tremendous disturbance to their quality of life. Omalizumab, a humanized anti-IgE monoclonal antibody, has been approved for use in antihistamine-resistant idiopathic chronic urticaria in Japan. Omalizumab had also been reported to be beneficial for several types of chronic inducible urticaria such as cholinergic urticarial and solar urticaria, although the mechanism underlying its action in these conditions was unclear

**Observation:** We report a 27-year-old Japanese women suffering from a 2 year-history of severe cholinergic urticarial (sweat allergy-type) that was unresponsive to various antihistamines and other medication but was successfully treated with omalizumab. The patient showed rapid and marked reduction in her symptoms of urticaria after the first injection of omalizumab (300 mg). She has been receiving omalizumab treatment 3 times every 4 weeks and 6 times every 6 weeks, followed by maintenance treatment every 8 weeks without any adverse reactions for a total of 68 months.

**Key message:** Chronic inducible urticarial, including cholinergic urticarial is intractable and often unresponsive to antihistamines, forcing excessive disabilities on patients. While further large-scaled clinical investigations will be necessary, omalizumab may be a beneficial therapeutic remedy for patients with intractable chronic inducible urticarial including cholinergic urticarial.

