



AUTOIMMUNE CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASES

A SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF ERYTHEMA ANNULARE CENTRIFUGUM WITH ADALIMUMAB

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Background: Erythema annulare centrifugum (EAC) is a type of annular erythema with a multifactorial etiology that includes drugs, pregnancy, autoimmune disorders, infections and neoplasia. In a large number of cases no underlying cause is detectable, and the treatment is, therefore, directed towards individual symptoms. However, many patients are refractory to these treatments and new treatment options are needed.

Observation: We describe the case of a patient with EAC and Ankylosing spondylitis (AS) seen at our hospital. Treatment began with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, but his clinical improvement was poor. The addition of Hydroxychloroquine sulfate (400 mg/day) and Chloroquine (500 mg/day) also failed to relieve symptoms. We subsequently began a treatment with adalimumab 40 mg SC every 2 weeks for IE. Ten months after the treatment with adalimumab was started there was a clear articular improvement and polycyclic figures completely disappeared without further relapses. There was also an improvement in the inflammatory lumbar pain and global disease assessment. To our knowledge, this is the first report on the use of adalimumab in the treatment EAC.

Key message: One of the most impressive recent achievements of immunology has been the development of new therapies for immunological diseases based on the understanding of basic science. The perception of the central role T cells and cytokines have on the AS brought noticeable advancements in terms of treatment, with the definition of specific molecules as targets, based on scientific knowledge. Chief amongst these new therapies are TNF antagonists (Adalimumab), which demonstrated an important effect on EAC.

