

URTICARIA, ANGIOEDEMA

EFFICACY AND SAFETY OF LONG-TERM ANTI-IGE ANTIBODY THERAPY IN ADULT PATIENTS WITH WHEAT ALLERGY

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Introduction: In general, food allergens cause IgE-mediated immediate-type allergy. Patients with food allergies are recommended to avoid the respective food products; however, this is difficult for those allergic to wheat, since wheat is a part of their staple diet, thereby impairing their quality of life. In such patients, anti-IgE antibodies can be considered as a suitable treatment.

Objective: This study aimed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of long-term anti-IgE antibody therapy in adult patients with wheat allergy.

Materials and Methods: In total, 20 adult patients with 12 hydrolyzed wheat protein allergies (HWP-type) and 8 conventional type wheat allergies (ω -5G-type) were enrolled. Omalizumab was administered for 44 weeks, followed by 24 weeks of follow-up survey. In this treatment, the primary endpoint indicated reduction below 10% of basophil activation against wheat proteins in the CD203c expression-based basophil activation test. The secondary endpoint indicates the percentage of asymptomatic behavior after discontinuing the restricted intake of wheat during the omalizumab treatment and follow-up survey period.

Results: The primary endpoint was achieved in 85% of the patients, 75% of HWP-type, and 100% of ω -5G-type. The secondary endpoint was achieved in 73.6% of the patients during omalizumab treatment (72.7% of HWP-type and 75% of ω 5-G-type) and 36.8% in follow-up survey (54.5% of HWP-type and 12.5% of ω 5-G-type). At the end of the follow-up survey, 54.5% of HWP-type patients were clinically subjected to normal wheat intake. No adverse











events were observed during the study.

Conclusion: Long-term omalizumab treatment caused basophil hyporesponsiveness to wheat allergens in 85% of the wheat allergy patients, and tolerance to wheat intake in 73.6% of the patients. Long-term omalizumab treatment may presumably be efficient and safe for adult patients with food allergy, and CD203c expression-based basophil activation test might indicate food tolerance.



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