USE OF INFliximab IN A PREGNANT WOMAN WITH ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS

M.H. García Lagunar 1, A. Chica Marchal 1, E. Ferris Villanueva 1, R. Guerrero Bautista 1, M.d.R. Gutiérrez Cívicos 1, I. Muñoz García 1, A. García Márquez 1, M. Martínez Penella 1, D. Lacruz Guzmán 1, M.S. García Simón 1
1Farmacia Hospitalaria. Hospital General Universitario Santa Lucía, Cartagena, Spain.

BACKGROUND
The use of drugs during pregnancy is always controversial. There is limited information about the use of infliximab during pregnancy.

PURPOSE
To describe the effectiveness and safety of infliximab in a patient with ankylosing spondylitis during pregnancy.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
Retrospective and observational study of a pregnant woman with ankylosing spondylitis who was treated with infliximab.

RESULTS

In 2005, a 32-year-old woman was diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis.

In 2007, she started treatment with infliximab 5mg/kg every 8 weeks.

In 2012, she got pregnant and stopped treatment (CRP<0.3mg/dL and ESR=2mm/h). She started suffering diffuse polyarthralgia, soreness and disabling pain.

Week 14 of pregnancy
Her ankylosing spondylitis flared up with pain in several joints. She was prescribed corticosteroids without success and she asked to resume treatment with infliximab.

The teratogens centre indicated that there was no absolute contraindication. Therefore, the hospital’s Medical Director authorized the off-label use of infliximab in a pregnant woman.

Week 16 of pregnancy
She was treated with infliximab (previous values: CRP=1.1mg/dL and ESR=40mm/h). After that, she showed a significant improvement (ESR=9mm/h).

Week 23 and 30 of pregnancy
She was retreated (values after the second dosage during pregnancy: CRP=0.4mg/dL and ESR=2mm/h).

Week 40 of pregnancy
She gave birth without any problems. The newborn weight was 3.420 kg and the APGAR score was 9/10.

She restarted the treatment two weeks after birth, the previous values were CRP=7.4mg/dL and ESR=33mm/h, but they quickly normalised (CRP<0.4 mg/dL and ESR=6mm/h).

CONCLUSION
In our limited clinical experience, infliximab was safe and effective in our patient. However, the use of infliximab during pregnancy should be studied on a case-by-case basis.