Off label use of adalimumab in the management of severe suppurative hidradenitis

Qusada Sanz MP, Marmesat Rodas B, Guerra Estévez D, Ramos Báez JJ, Gantes Trelles J.

UGC Farmacia Hospital Punta de Europa. Algeciras. Cádiz. España

Background:
Acne inverse (AI), also known as hidradenitis suppurativa (HS), is a chronic, inflammatory and recurrent disease with usual standard treatment, especially in the advanced stage of the disease, so that the use of modulating factor of the inflammatory response such as adalimumab, may constitute a new therapeutic option.

Objective:
To evaluate the efficacy and safety of adalimumab in the treatment of severe AI.

Material and method:
Retrospective cross-sectional study of patients diagnosed with AI (Hurley grade III) and adalimumab subcutaneous until August 2013. In all cases, informed consent was obtained (off-label indication). The data were obtained from the clinical history and program computerized outpatient dispensing. The efficacy of adalimumab was defined as clinical improvement in the affected regions, nodules and/or fistulas compared to usual standard treatment (oral antibiotics, corticosteroids, antiandrogens and/or retinoids).

Results:
Six patients were included, 2 men and 4 women, with a mean age of 28.8±8.6 years (range: 17-39). The mean treatment duration was 4.8±2.7 months (range: 1-9). All patients reported improvement with decreased drainage from all affected sites, remaining stable during the follow-up period. No significant adverse effects were reported.

Conclusions:
Adalimumab may represent a new alternative in the management of severe AI with acceptable safety profile, despite being administered at high doses during the induction phase and without weekly break, although the benefit/risk long term of adalimumab is unknown.

Week 0  |  Week 1  |  Maintenance regimen
--- | --- | ---
160mg (4patients)  |  80mg (4patients)  |  40mg/week (4patients)
80mg (2patients)  |  ---- (2patients)  |  40mg/2weeks (2patients)