

## Effect of Rituximab treatment in aseptic meningitis with ANCA associated vasculitis; 8 case analysis

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**Introduction:** ANCA associated vasculitis (AAV) affects mainly small- to medium-sized vessels and is characterized by multisystem organ involvement. But, CNS involvement is rare. Until now, cyclophosphamide (CYC), azathioprine and mycophenolate mofetil (MMF) used in combined with high-dose glucocorticoids in CNS involvement in AAV. However, due to limited effects and side effects of these medications, rituximab has recently been in the spotlight. Here, we analyzed the effects of rituximab treatment in 8 patients with aseptic meningitis in AAV patients.

**Results :** The mean age was 71.2 years-old, and 3 were female patients. Among the AAV, Granulomatous polyangiitis (GPA) was 4 (50%), microscopic polyangiitis (MPA) was 3 (37.5%) and eosinophilic granulomatosis with polyangiitis (EGPA) was 1 (12.5%). At the time of diagnosis aseptic meningitis in AAV, 6 patients (75%) have renal involvement and 3 patients (37.5%) have lung involvement. All patients received high-dose glucocorticoid and CYC treatment for induction therapy, after induction therapy, azathioprine (3 patients) or MMF (5 patients) was used as maintenance therapy. The mean aseptic meningitis relapse period after initial therapy was 3.6 months. The rituximab protocol was 1 infusion (375 mg/m<sup>2</sup>) every week for 4 weeks. There was no recurrence of aseptic meningitis after 6 months of follow-up after rituximab therapy (Table). One patient had herpes zoster infection, but there were no other serious side effects.

**Conclusion:** Rituximab therapy was effective in the treatment of Aseptic meningitis with AAV patient.

Variables	Patients (8)
	Baseline characteristics
Age, years, mean $\pm$ S.D	71.2 $\pm$ 8.4
Female sex, no. (%)	3 (37.5%)
GPA : MPA : CSS	4(50%) : 3(37.5%) : 1 (12.5%)
Renal involvement	6 (75%)
Lung involvement	3 (37.5%)
mean relapse period after CYC induction therapy (months)	3.5 $\pm$ 1.9
Relapsed patient after rituximab therapy in 6months	0 (0%)