DUPILUMAB-ASSOCIATED SCARRING ALOPECIA IN A PATIENT WITH ATOPIC DERMATITIS: A CASE REPORT

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BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Atopic dermatitis is a multifactorial systemic condition characterized by immune dysregulation and impaired skin barrier function. Its prevalence ranges from 5-20% in the general population, with higher rates (around 20%) in children and adolescents. Dupilumab, a targeted biological therapy, has significantly improved moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis management, offering relief in cases resistant to conventional treatments.

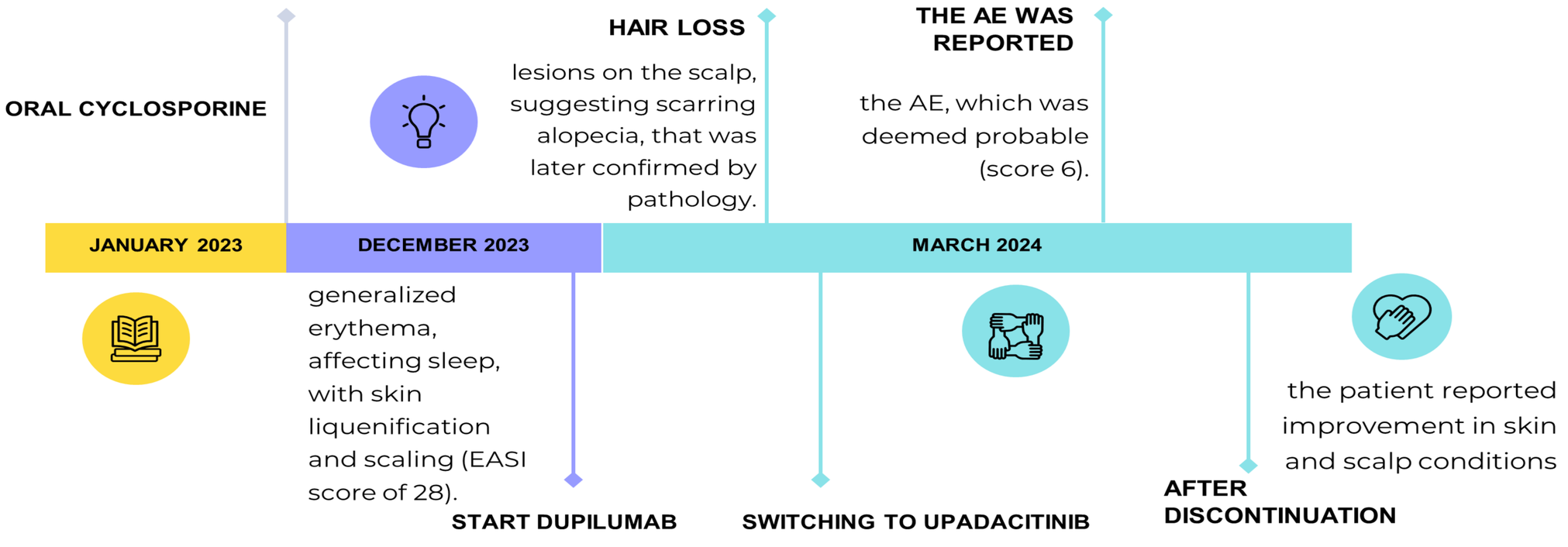
AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To report a case of an **unreported adverse effect (AE)** linked to **Dupilumab** in a patient with severe atopic dermatitis.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

We present a case **of scarring alopecia due to Dupilumab** in a patient with severe atopic dermatitis.

Patient: A 16-year-old asthmatic patient with food allergies diagnosed with atopic dermatitis and treated with topical corticosteroids since childhood.
In January 2023, he started oral cyclosporine; however, after eleven months of treatment with increasing doses, the patient still exhibited generalized erythema, affecting sleep, with skin liquenification and scaling (EASI score of 28). In December 2023, Dupilumab 600 mg was initiated, followed by 300 mg every two weeks. After three months (March 2024), with a moderate treatment response, the patient reported significant hair loss. Dermatology consultation revealed erythematous lesions on the scalp, suggesting scarring alopecia, that was later confirmed by pathology. Suspecting an AE, Dupilumab was discontinued, and switching to Upadacitinib was considered. Epidemiological and clinical data were obtained from the digital medical record and outpatient management system.



RESULTS

Two weeks after discontinuation, the patient reported improvement in skin and scalp conditions. **The AE was reported to the Spanish Pharmacovigilance System** through its Electronic Yellow Card System . The Naranjo algorithm was used to assess the causal link between **Dupilumab and the AE, which was deemed probable (score 6)**.

CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

Reporting suspected EAs is essential for post-marketing safety. It allows identification of new adverse effects. This case of dupilumab-induced scarring alopecia **emphasizes the importance of ongoing pharmacovigilance, even for well-established treatments**. It also highlights the role of healthcare professionals, especially pharmacists, in identifying rare or unexpected EAs early in treatment, contributing to better patient management.

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