

USE OF INFLIXIMAB IN A PREGNANT WOMAN WITH ANKYLOSING SPONDYLITIS

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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.

- Data collected:
- Week of gestation
 - Infliximab dosage
 - Laboratory data:
 - erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR)
 - C-reactive protein (CRP).

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.