

EFFECTIVENESS AND SAFETY OF VEDOLIZUMAB IN ULCERATIVE COLITIS AND CROHN'S DISEASE

BACKGROUND

Vedolizumab is a monoclonal antibody for the treatment of ulcerative colitis and crohn's disease.

PURPOSE

The aim of this study was to determine the efficacy and safety of vedolizumab in our hospital since its inclusion in the pharmaceutical guide in April 2016 to the current date (17 months).

MATERIALS AND METHODS

We performed a prospective, longitudinal, observational study of patients starting treatment with vedolizumab in a general hospital.

The inclusion criteria for this study were adult patients diagnosed with ulcerative Colitis or crohn's disease, treated with vedolizumab. We collected demographic variables (age, sex), clinical information (time from diagnosis to treatment with vedolizumab, prior lines of treatment and number of anti-TNF alpha received previously), efficiency results (reducing doses of corticoids, variation in hemoglobin, C-reactive protein, fecal calprotectin and number of bowel movements from the beginning of treatment with vedolizumab until today) and adverse reactions to vedolizumab.

RESULTS

30 patients were treated with vedolizumab, 22 (73,3 %) women and 8 (26,6 %) men, with an average age of 51,7 years (36-65 DS), median time since diagnosis 9,7 years (3-19 SD), number of previous treatments 5 (2-9 SD), anti-TNF alpha 31 (1-4 SD).

With regard to efficiency, significant decrease in stool frequency was reported in 33,3 % of patients, and corticosteroid doses in 66,6 % of patients. Significant improvements in hemoglobin levels were observed in 9 patients (30 %), in C-reactive protein in 20 patients (66,6 %) and in faecal calprotectin in 9 patients (30 %).

During the period of study, 30 % of the patients required hospitalization due to severe outbreaks of the disease, one of them discontinued treatment.

Only three patients experienced adverse events: 4 acneiform eruptions and 2 fever during vedolimimumab infusion. None discontinued treatment because of these side effects.

CONCLUSIONS

Vedolizumab is an alternative treatment in patients with ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease who fail to respond to anti-TNF therapies. Based in our dinical experience, this medicament shows a modest efficiency because 30 % of the patients experienced severe outbreaks and good tolerance, none of the patients discontinued treatment because of these side effects.

