

# TOCILIZUMAB IN PATIENTS WITH COVID19: RESULTS IN CLINICAL PRACTICE.

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## BACKGROUND AND IMPORTANCE

Tocilizumab is an immunosuppressive agent, an inhibitor of interleukin-6. It was included in March 2020 in the treatment plan of SARS-CoV-2 infection with the aim of slowing down the inflammatory phase. Therefore, tocilizumab constitutes a possible alternative therapy within the various experimental strategies available.

## AIM AND OBJECTIVES

To evaluate the effectiveness and safety of tocilizumab patients with covid19.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

- **Observational and retrospective study** which included every patient with covid19 treated with tocilizumab
- **Period of study:** March and August 2020.
- **Demographics and clinical variables:** sex, age, diagnosis of pneumonia, dates of admission, discharge and administration of tocilizumab, dose and treatment criteria.
- **Analytical parameters related to disease severity (APRDS):** C-reactive protein (CRP), ferritin, D-dimer and lactate dehydrogenase (LDH). The determination of interleukin-6 was not available at our hospital.
- To evaluate the effectiveness, the clinical and analytical response after the administration of tocilizumab was recorded.
- Adverse effects were recorded to assess safety.

## RESULTS

- **Number of patients:** 50
- **Sex:** 64% males
- **Median age:** 68,53 years (range: 25-89)

<b>Diagnosis of pneumonia</b>	50 (100%)
<b>Median length of hospital stay</b>	14 days (range: 1-37)

TREATMENT CRITERIA	% PATIENTS
Rapid worsening of the disease	50%
Severe systemic inflammatory response	30%
Severy respiratory fialure	16%
Extrapulmonary organ fialure	2%
Patients susceptible to intensive care	2%

<b>600 mg*</b>	34 patients
<b>400 mg*</b>	16 patients

\*Meeting weight-related dose criteria

- 13 patients received a second dose
- 1 received a third for worsening of APRDS

CLINICAL AND ANALYTICAL RESPONSE	% PATIENTS
Good clinical-analytical response	53,1%
No improvement	38,8%
Transferred to another hospital before the response was assessed	8,1%

No treatment related adverse effects were recorded

## CONCLUSION AND RELEVANCE

- The results obtained in our population indicate that tocilizumab is a well-tolerated drug. With regard to the data on effectiveness, they show unsatisfactory results.
- The available data on the use of tocilizumab in patients with COVID-19 are limited so it is important to carry out studies that allow global data to be collected.