

ADALIMUMAB FOR THE TREATMENT OF BEHCET'S DISEASE

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Background

Behcet's disease (BD) is an inflammatory disease characterized by recurrent oral aphthous ulcers and numerous potential systemic manifestations. These include genital ulcers, ocular disease, skin lesions, neurologic disease, vascular disease, and arthritis.

Purpose

To describe the experience of our centre with the compassionate use of adalimumab for the treatment of severe clinical manifestations in patients with BD in whom immunosuppressive therapy had failed.

Material and methods

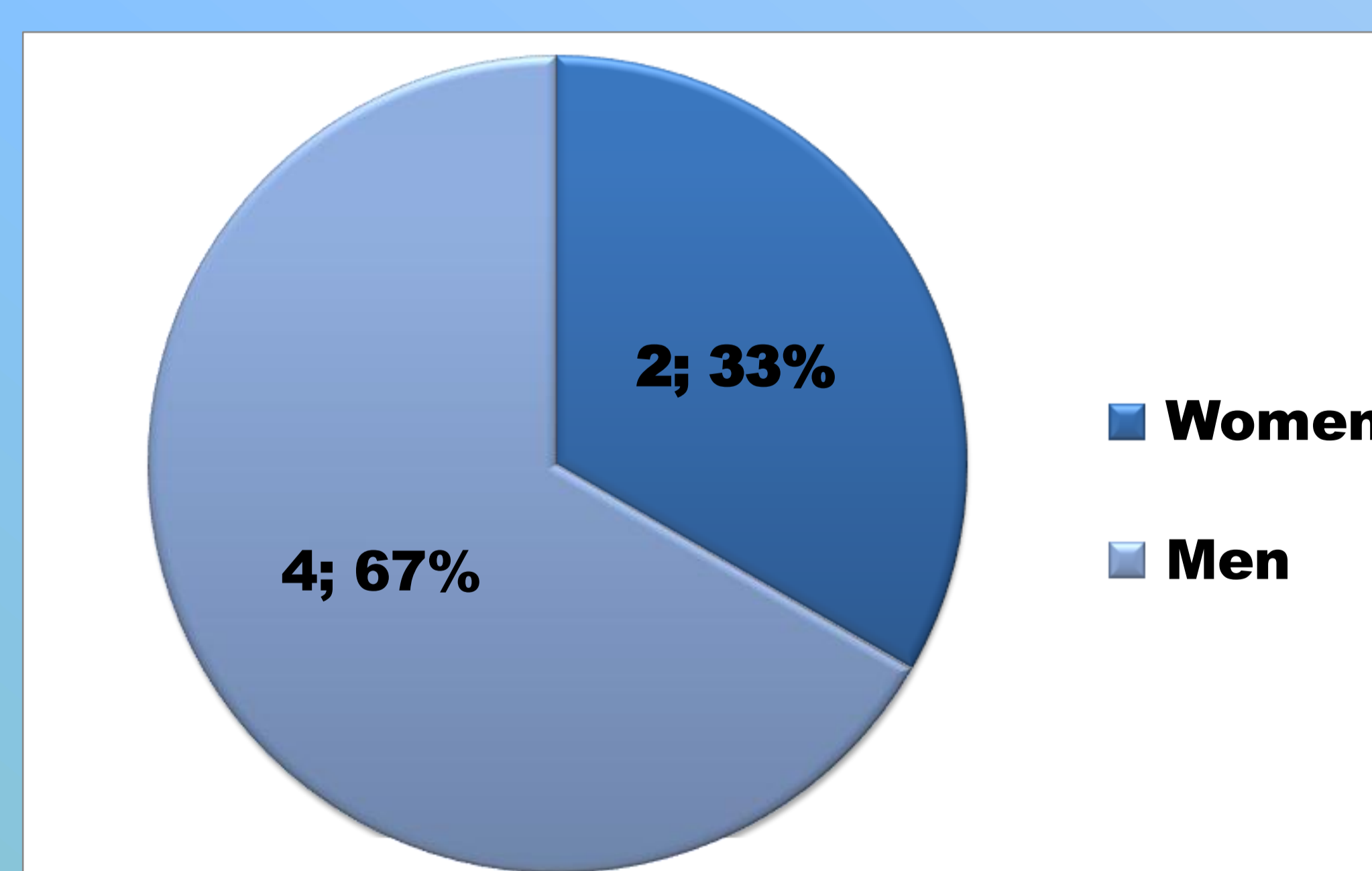
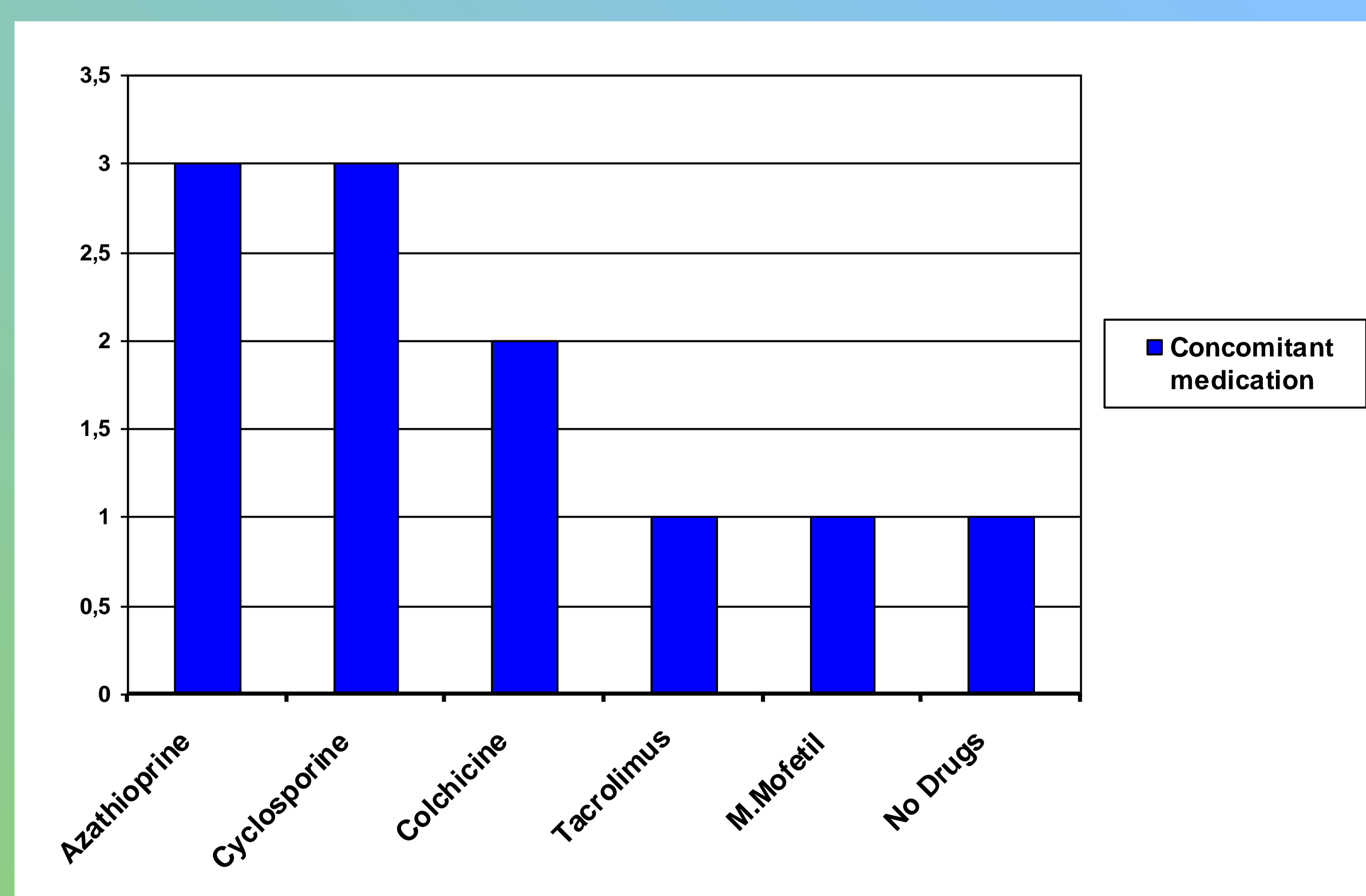
Retrospective review of medical records of 24 months (January 2010 - December 2012) from patients with BD treated with adalimumab as compassionate use in a tertiary centre. Demographic and clinical data included age, sex, previous treatment, indication for adalimumab, side effects, concomitant drugs and clinical outcome.

Results

Six patients were included in the study (2/4 women/men) with a mean age of 30 years (range 21-39). We decided to start treatment with adalimumab (40 mg/14 days sc) due to the lack of response in the control of symptoms (two patients had recurrent cutaneous lesions), ocular involvement (2 patients with uveitis of repetition and visual deterioration) and adverse reaction (one patient)

The patients had received conventional treatment: 2/6 received two drugs, 3/6 received three drugs and fourth received four drugs previously. Five patients received concomitant medication, the most prescribed were azathioprine and cyclosporine (3/ 6 patients) followed by colchicine (2/6 patients), tacrolimus (1/6 patients) and mycophenolate mofetil (1/ 6 patients). One patient did not receive concomitant medication.

We did not detect any adverse effects in patients treated with adalimumab. In 4/6 of the patients showed clinical improvement, while 2/ 6 patients were asymptomatic evolution



Conclusions

Adalimumab is a good option for patients with BD who are resistant to conventional therapy with good safety profile

No conflict of interest