

USE OF RITUXIMAB IN A PATIENT WITH UNDIFFERENTIATED CONNECTIVE TISSUE DISEASE AND AUTOIMMUNE HEPATITIS-CASE REPORT

PRIMJENA RITUKSIMABA U BOLESNIKA S NEDIFERENCIRANOM BOLEŠĆU VEZIVNOG TKIVA I AUTOIMUNIM HEPATITISOM – PRIKAZ SLUČAJA

Blerta Rexhepi-Kelmendi ¹, Mjellma Rexhepi ¹

¹*Rheumatology Clinic, University Clinical Centre of Kosova*

Undifferentiated connective-tissue disease (UCTD) is a condition that does not meet the criteria for any specific connective-tissue disease (CTD), but is characterised by the presence of both clinical symptoms and tests of systemic autoimmune disease. Autoimmune hepatitis (AIH) refers to chronic and progressive inflammation of the liver from an unknown cause. Both of them are immune-mediated disorders with overlapping pathogenic mechanisms. We present a case 49-year-old woman with undifferentiated connective tissue disease (UCTD) who, after four years, began experiencing symptoms such as fatigue, jaundice, and significantly elevated liver enzymes, with transaminase levels tripled. After liver biopsy, she was diagnosed with autoimmune hepatitis (AIH). Patient was treated in the beginning with hydroxychloroquine, lately the main treatment was azathioprine and corticosteroids. When AIH was diagnosed in 2023 patient didn't have good response in the standard treatment. Rituximab was initiated (1000 mg IV on days 0 and 14). Four months later the liver function tests were normal. Repeat course was given after 6 months on day 0 and 14. At 12-month follow-up, patient was in remission and the lab tests were in normal range. Patient now is in hydroxychloroquine. This case enhances the potential benefits of Rituximab (in the treatment of AIH that is linked with systemic autoimmune disorders like UCTD).

Keywords: rituximab, autoimmune Hepatitis, undifferentiated Connective Tissue Disease

E-mail of the main author: blerta.rexhepi@gmail.com

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