haematologica 2001; 86:225-226
http://www.haematologica.it/2001_03/0225.htm

Editorial

Immune tolerance in hemophilia and treatment of hemophiliacs with an inhibitor

GUGLIELMO MARIANI, HANS-HERMANN BRACKMANN

The appearance of inhibitors in hemophilia is now considered by far the severest problem of hemophilia treatment, being associated with increased morbidity if not mortality. The presence of an inhibitor, especially if high-titer, leads to a clinical situation which is comparable to that of the early years of hemophilia treatment when bleedings were difficult to treat and arthropathy rapidly progressed towards disability.

However, in recent years, new drugs and treatment modalities have been introduced which have modified this otherwise gloomy scenario. In addition, there has been a tumultuous increase in scientific knowledge on the matter and important fall-out concerning the management of patients with inhibitors to factor VIII (FVIII) is foreseen in the forthcoming years. Among the many issues of interest, we are understanding more about the humoral and cellular mechanisms of inhibitor formation and some of the processes underlying the return to a tolerant status towards FVIII.

A recent supplement of Haematologica contains selected papers from the Third Workshop on Immune Tolerance which took place in Palermo, Italy, October 1999.[1-28] The discussion developed during the meeting has been included, which involved a major editorial effort. All things considered, this volume contains a great deal of information valuable for both researchers and clinicians.

The full text of the Third Workshop on *Immune Tolerance in Hemophilia and the Treatment of Hemophiliacs with an Inhibitor*, Proceedings of the Workshop held in Palermo, Italy; October 7-9, 1999, can be downloaded at the following Internet site:

http://www.haematologica.it/e-page.html

The fourth Workshop on Immune Tolerance will take place in Bonn, Germany, Thursday August 30th through September 1st 2001. Information concerning the site and the program will be circulated soon.

Guglielmo Mariani, Hans-Hermann Brackmann
E-mail: guglielmo.mariani@tin.it

References

1. Mariani G. Brackmann HH. Foreword. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):1.
2. Lusher JM. FVIII Inhibitors with recombinant products. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):2-6.
3. Oldenburg J, Schwaab R. Risk factors for inhibitor development. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):7-14.
4. Ingerslev J. Strategies for the treatment of inhibitor patients. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):15-20.
5. Hay CRM. Porcine FVIII: past, present and future. Haematologica 2000; 85(Suppl. to n. 10):21-5.
6. Lollar P. Mapping Factor VIII inhibitor epitopes using hybrid human/porcine factor VIII molecules. Haematologica 2000; 85 (suppl. to n. 10):26-30.
7. Warrier I. Antibodies to FIX. Haematologica 2000; 85 (suppl. to n. 10):31-4.
8. Ewenstein BM. Inhibition of CD40 ligand (CD154) in the treatment of factor VIII inhibitors. Haematologica 2000; ; 85 (suppl. to n. 10):35-9.
9. Di Michele D. The maintenence of tolerance after successful ITT induction in hemophilia A and B: the North American registry. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):40-4.
10. Lenk H. The German registry of ITT in hemophilia: 1999 update. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):45-7.
11. Berntorp E. Malmoe protocol update. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):48-51.

12. Hay CRM. Immunetolerance induction: prospective clinical trials. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):52-6.
13. Kessler CM. Acquired factor VIII auto antibody inhibitors: current concepts and potential therapeutic strategies for the future. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):57-63.
14. Nemes L. New protocol for immunetolerance induction in acquired hemophilia. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):64-8.
15. Berntorp E. Regimes of factor VIII administration: continuous vs. bolus. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):69-72.
16. Landolfi R. Immunetolerance by intermittent factor VIII boluses in two high responder hemophilia A patients. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):73-4.
17. Brackmann HH. Side effects. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):75-7.
18. Butler RB. Immunetolerance: a nursing perspective. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):78-80.
19. Gargallo B. Immunetolerance: the parent's perspective. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):81-2.
20. Aledort LM, Kroner B, Mariani G. Immune tolerance induction: treatment duration analysis and economic considerations. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10): 83-5.
21. Scandella D. Characterisation of antibodies to FVIII in hemophilia patients treated by immunetolerance therapy. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):86-8.
22. Lacroix-Desmazes S, Kazatchkine MD. FVIII inhibitor with catalytic activity towards FVIII. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):89-92.
23. Saint-Rémy JM. B and T cell tolerance: from basic concepts to clinical practice. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):93-6.
24. Kazatchkine MD, Lacroix Demazes S. Idiotypic regulation of anti-factor VIII antibodies. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):97-9.
25. Hoyer, L. Immune response to Factor VIII in hemophilia A mice. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10)100-2.
26. Gilles J. Animal models to explore tolerance induction to FVIII. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):103-7.
27. Lillicrap D. Gene therapy, factor VIII inhibitors and immunetolerance: hopes and concerns. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):108-12.
28. White G. Immunological tolerance: a clinical perspective. Haematologica 2000; 85(suppl. to n. 10):113-6.