TOCILIZUMAB IN THE TREATMENT OF THYROID-ASSOCIATED ORBITOPATHY

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Purpose: To report the efficacy of tocilizumab in two patients with thyroid-associated orbitopathy (TAO).

Methods: Case report of 2 patients with severe TAO and insufficient response to corticosteroids with subsequent tocilizumab therapy.

Results: Patient 1 is a 42-year-old female with active TAO with diplopia and marked inflammatory signs. The patient was treated with oral selenium, methimazole and intravenous methylprednisolone pulses for 12 weeks, maintaining inflammatory activity with a clinical activity score (CAS) of 5. Tocilizumab therapy was initiated and after 8 cycles, the patient reported almost complete resolution of symptoms and a CAS of 1.

Patient 2 is a 41-year-old male with TAO with a CAS of 4, previously treated with methimazole and oral corticosteroids, developing steroid-induced diabetes mellitus. The patient completed 8 cycles of tocilizumab therapy, with a reduction in the CAS to 1 and clinical resolution of inflammatory activity, although maintaining diplopia. The patient was later submitted to strabismus surgery.

Conclusions: Tocilizumab was associated with a reduction in CAS and is an effective option in the treatment of severe or corticosteroid-resistant thyroid-associated orbitopathy.

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