

The safety and efficacy of retreatment with IFX after a short “drug holiday” was recently demonstrated in the STORI trial. However, data regarding re-treatment after a long drug holiday (>1 year) are few. With increased use of biologics, the number of patients who have lost response to both biologics is increasing. These patients have limited therapeutic options but retreatment with IFX has been proposed.

Methods We performed a retrospective review of patients with Crohn’s disease who had been re-treated with IFX after a period off treatment of at least 1 year. Patients were identified from our biologics database and their records were reviewed. Patient details and clinical outcome measures were extracted into a standardised form.

Results 24 patients (14 male) were studied with a median age of 38 years (range: 21–61 years). 15 patients had responded to their first course of treatment; IFX was stopped due to episodic treatment being the norm at that time (n=9), patient choice (n=3), failure to re-attend for planned treatment (n=1) and development of strictures requiring surgery (n=2). The median time between stopping IFX and retreatment was 35 months (range 14–102). In this cohort, 80% responded to retreatment (12/15), 2 developed infusion reactions and 1 developed secondary loss of response. Median follow-up among continued responders was 20 months (range 2–43). Nine patients stopped their first course of IFX for either primary non-response (n=5), secondary loss of response (n=2) or infusion reaction (n=2). The median time between treatments was 32 months (range 18–42). In this cohort, 78% of patients responded to retreatment (7/9); 2 had infusion reactions. Follow-up among ongoing responders was for a median of 11 months (range: 2–84 months). All infusion reactions occurred on the second retreatment dose despite premedication with hydrocortisone (200 mg iv).

Conclusion Re-treatment with IFX after a drug holiday of at least 1 year was frequently successful, whether the patients had initially responded to IFX or not. The main limiting factor was the development of infusion reactions. We conclude that retreatment with IFX is a viable option in people with limited therapeutic options even if they failed to respond to their first course of treatment or have previously lost response.

Abstract PTU-102 Table 1

Disease duration (y) (median (range))	36 (21–59)
Age at diagnosis	22 (11–50)
% Ileal disease	4% (1/24)
% Ileocolonic	25% (6/24)
% Colonic disease	71% (17/24)
% B1 (non-stricturing/penetrating)	21% (5/24)
% B2 (stricturing)	38% (9/24)
% B3 (penetrating)	42% (10/24)
% p (perianal)	38% (9/24)
Concurrent immunosuppressants	63% (15/24)

Competing interests None declared.

PTU-103 ANTI-INFLIXIMAB ANTIBODIES: PREVALENCE, INFUSION REACTIONS, IMMUNOSUPPRESSION AND RESPONSE, A META-ANALYSIS

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L Y Lee,* J Sanderson, P Irving. *Department of Gastroenterology, Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust, London, UK*

Introduction Infliximab is a chimeric monoclonal antibody directed against tumour necrosis factor α . When used in inflammatory bowel

disease (IBD), primary non-response is seen in at least 10% of patients with secondary loss of response occurring in a further 10%–15% per year. It has been suggested that this may in part be a result of the development of anti-infliximab antibodies (ATIs). The prevalence of ATIs varies according to the frequency of administration of infliximab and the use of immunosuppressants. ATIs have also been linked with infusion and hypersensitivity reactions. We aimed to perform a meta-analysis of the prevalence of ATIs in people with IBD receiving infliximab, the effect of immunosuppressive drugs on prevalence of ATIs and the effects of ATIs on infusion reactions and remission rates.

Methods MEDLINE and EMBASE databases were systematically searched from 1948 and 1980 respectively to October 2011. Inclusion criteria included randomised controlled trials, cohort studies or case series reporting on anti-infliximab antibodies in adult or juvenile IBD. Data from eligible studies were extracted into a standardised form and a meta-analysis performed.

Results 18 studies involving 3326 patients were included. The prevalence of ATIs was 45.8% when episodic infusions of infliximab were given and 12.4% when maintenance infliximab was given. Rates of infusion reactions were significantly higher in patients with ATIs (RR: 2.07, 95% CI 1.61 to 2.67). Immunosuppressants resulted in a 50% risk reduction in prevalence of ATIs. The prevalence of ATIs was 17.5% in patients using immunosuppressants and 37.7% in those who were not (RR: 0.50, 95% CI 0.42 to 0.59). However, the presence or absence of ATIs did not significantly affect rates of clinical remission, which was 46.5% in patients with ATIs and 60.2% in those without (p=0.10).

Conclusion The prevalence of ATIs depends on the regimen of infliximab administration and the use of immunosuppressants. Patients who develop ATIs are at increased risk of infusion reactions, but the presence of ATIs does not, by itself, have an effect on rates of clinical remission.

Abstract PTU-103 Table 1

	Number of ATIs	95% CI	RR
Episodic Infliximab	95/128 (74.2%)	0.66 to 0.81	
Episodic Infliximab + immunosuppression	77/171 (45.0%)	0.38 to 0.53	0.60
Maintenance Infliximab	148/423 (35.0%)	0.31 to 0.40	
Maintenance Infliximab + immunosuppression	32/315 (10.2%)	0.07 to 0.14	0.31

Competing interests None declared.

PTU-104 THIOGUANINE NUCLEOTIDES: OPTIMISING THIOPURINE THERAPY IN INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE (A DGH PERSPECTIVE)

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L Pee,* A Gera, T Bedwell, V Saxena, H Curtis, A Loganayagam. *Gastroenterology, South London Healthcare NHS Trust, London, UK*

Introduction Azathioprine (AZA) and 6-mercaptopurine (6MP) have been used in treatment of inflammatory bowel disease since introduction in the 1960s.¹ 6-thioguanine nucleotides (TGN) levels are related to therapeutic response with likely minimum threshold value of 235–250 pmol/8×10⁸ RBC.^{2–5} Thiopurine metabolism is affected by thiopurine methyltransferase (TPMT) and its activity is therefore important. Methylated derivatives like 6 methyl mercaptopurine⁶ (MMP) are possibly partially responsible for hepatotoxic effects and maximum threshold value has been established at 5700 pmol/8×10⁸ RBC in a paediatric IBD population.²

Methods TGN/MMP measurements for the period October 2010–October 2011 were obtained from the biochemistry lab at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Woolwich and Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup and notes were reviewed. Data were collected regarding indications, drug therapy, TPMT levels prior to therapy (if available), concurrent blood results and action taken with the results.

Results 110 TGN/MMP measurements were taken on 86 patients (43 Male) with average age 40 years (17–73). 46 had Crohn's disease, 38 had ulcerative colitis and two had indeterminate colitis. TPMT was measured in 53 patients (62%) with average level 31 pm/hr/mgH (15–46). 10 patients were deficient (16–25 pm/hr/mgH). Nine patients had above average activity (>40 pm/hr/mgH). 72 tests carried out with patients on AZA, 29 tests on 6-MP and eight tests on AZA/Allopurinol. Six patients had dose reduction due to high TGN/MMP levels, five dose increase, seven escalated to biologic therapy, two medication changes to thioguanine or methotrexate and three switched to AZA/Allopurinol. One patient on 6-MP had abnormal LFTs despite normal MMP (4663) and TPMT (37) levels which settled once 6-MP was stopped. Another patient had TGN/MMP levels of 0 but denied non-compliance and was subsequently given biologic therapy. In this cohort, 24 (28%) patients had medication adjustments as a result of TGN/MMP measurements and 3 (3.5%) had compliance addressed with serial TGN results showing positive results.

Conclusion Our experience with TGN/MMP measurements indicates that they are a useful tool in optimising thiopurine therapy and can be used to determine dose adjustment or if new therapies are needed in poor responders. Non-compliance can also be determined and tackled. Additionally, they can be used to address hepatotoxicity due to high MMP levels as this can be circumvented by adding allopurinol to thiopurines at 25%–50% of usual dose.⁹

Competing interests None declared.

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PTU-105

PREOPERATIVE CICLOSPORIN THERAPY AND APPROPRIATE STEROID USE DOES NOT INCREASE RISK OF INFECTIVE COMPLICATIONS FOLLOWING COLECTOMY FOR ULCERATIVE COLITIS

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¹L Krupa,* ¹P Dave, ²A Hart, ³L Igali, ¹R Tighe, ¹M Tremelling. ¹*Gastroenterology, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Norwich, UK;* ²*School of Medicine, Health Policy and Practice, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK;* ³*Histopathology, Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Norwich, UK*

Introduction Corticosteroids increase the risk of serious and opportunistic infections, independently and in combination with immunosuppressives. Steroids increase risk of post operative sepsis OR 1.68 in Crohn's disease.¹ Addition of immunosuppressants in Crohn's increases the risk of opportunistic infection.² In acute severe ulcerative colitis (ASUC) addition of ciclosporin is standard management for patients not responding rapidly to IV steroids alone. Some patients do not respond and require urgent surgery.³ The risk of preoperative ciclosporin therapy to postoperative complications is not known.

Methods We conducted a retrospective review of patients undergoing colectomy for UC in 2009–2010 in a large centre. 40 colectomies were identified: 26 for ASUC the remainder for cancer or steroid dependency. Differences in post operative complication rates for all 40 individuals were compared between those who received ciclosporin (cases) and those who did not (controls). Analysis was by logistic regression techniques within STATA correcting for steroid use pre and post operatively. Age, gender ASA grade and diabetes were included as potential confounders.

Results In our panel there was no increase in post operative wound infections, (OR 0.4, p=0.34) intra-abdominal sepsis (OR 1.32, p=0.74), non-GI serious infections (OR 1.9, p=0.39) or all sepsis (OR 0.47, p=0.29) in ciclosporin treated patients compared with controls. There was also no increase in complication rates in patients given high dose steroids before (OR 0.14, p=0.1) or after admission (OR 1.2, p=0.75). Neither steroid use nor ciclosporin use predicted thromboembolic or bleeding complications or need for HDU.

Conclusion Used appropriately in accordance with current guidelines⁴ neither steroids nor ciclosporin increase the risk of post operative infective complications in patients failing medical therapy for ASUC.

Abstract PTU-105 Table 1

Demographic	Ciclosporin treated patients (n = 13)	Non-ciclosporin treated patients (n = 27)
% Female	38.4	37.0
Age at surgery (median)	64 years	67 years
Extensive colitis (n, %)	10 (76.9%)	24 (88.9%)
Patients on high dose steroids pre-admission (n, %)	5 (38.5%)	4 (14.8%)
Reason for colectomy ASUC	13 (100%)	13 (48.1%)
All septic complications (n, %)	8 (61.5%)	15 (55.5%)
Wound infections (n, %)	1 (7.7%)	5 (18.5%)
Intra-abdominal sepsis (n, %)	3 (23.1%)	5 (18.5%)
Other infections (n, %)	4 (30.8%)	5 (18.5%)

Competing interests None declared.

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PTU-106

A PROSPECTIVE SINGLE CENTRE EVALUATION OF THE INTRA-INDIVIDUAL VARIABILITY OF FAECAL CALPROTECTIN IN QUIESCENT CROHN'S DISEASE PATIENTS

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¹L A Smith,* ¹G Naismith, ²S Barry, ¹J Munro, ³K Rankin, ¹J Winter, ¹A J Morris, ¹D Gaya. ¹*Department of Gastroenterology, Glasgow Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, UK;* ²*Robertson Centre for Biostatistics, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK;* ³*Biochemistry, Glasgow Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, UK*

Introduction Faecal calprotectin (FC) has become an established non-invasive, sensitive marker of intestinal inflammation in Crohn's disease (CD). A single measurement of FC is used in clinical practice to aid decision making in the management of CD patients. Data on the day to day variation of FC levels in CD patients is sparse. If there