A CASE SERIES OF PATIENTS GIVEN SUCCESSIVE RESCUE THERAPY FOR STEROID REFRACTORY SEVERE ULCERATIVE COLITIS

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Introduction Following intravenous steroid use, salvage therapy for acute, severe Ulcerative Colitis consists of infliximab or ciclosporin. Conventional escalation therapy beyond this comprises referral to the surgeons for colectomy and this is our usual practice too. Previous studies where Infliximab or ciclosporin were given as third line therapy have suggested modest efficacy and highlighted potential adverse effects. We sought to review patients under our care who were treated with successive rescue therapy using Infliximab and ciclosporin or vice versa in steroid refractory UC.

Methods A retrospective review of case notes was undertaken at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. Between February 2017 and June 2018 eight patients with steroid-refractory ulcerative colitis given ciclosporin and infliximab therapy in succession were identified. The success and safety of treatment was assessed alongside the biochemical changes during treatment. 12 month follow up was reviewed post treatment.

Results Ages ranged from 17 to 41. One patient was known to have pancolitis, while seven had at least distal/left sided colitis. Six patients were switched from ciclosporin to infliximab (Cic-Ifx) and two patients were switched from infliximab to ciclosporin (Ifx-Cic). Reasons for switching included intolerance to treatment and concerns about fertility with future ileal pouch formation. Five out of eight patients responded to treatment and avoided surgical intervention during admission. The remaining three patients were referred for colectomy which they underwent without complications or a prolonged post-op stay. All five patients undergoing successive rescue therapy avoided colectomy up to 12 months post treatment. There were no deaths, or significant adverse events reported in all eight patients. Three patients were given intravenous antibiotics due to suspected bacterial translocation.

Conclusions In this small case series colectomy avoidance was 62.5% in patients who were given alternative rescue treatment during admission and remained medically managed for at least 12 months following the intervention. In contrast to other studies there were no significant adverse outcomes encountered. Careful monitoring and selection of patient profile may help determine who benefits most from successive salvage therapies in acute, severe UC.

IDENTIFICATION OF IBD IMMUNOPATHOTYPES

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Introduction Currently only 1/3 of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) patients respond to the frontline therapies, but recent successes in stratification of Crohn’s disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC) patients into responders and non-responders have been reported. However, little is known about the molecular mechanisms underlying these different treatment
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Responses, and research is still far from developing cost-effective and feasible approaches to predict these responses. Methods Using peripheral blood samples and colonic biopsies, we aim to stratify CD patients into different immunopathotypes. We quantified frequencies of leukocyte populations and cytokines in peripheral blood of patients and healthy controls, using flow cytometry analysis and ELISAs. Cytokine and leukocyte population levels were correlated using Sparse PLS Discriminant Analysis. Additionally, gene expression data was assessed. Our eventual aim is to help ensure that CD patients associated with distinct treatment responses. Our ongoing work will assess these potential associations. Should strong associations be identified, their prognostic value will be assessed. Our eventual aim is to help ensure that CD patients receives the most appropriate treatment soon after diagnosis. This is likely to be crucial in limiting damage caused by ongoing inflammation.

**PTh-076** SWITCHING FROM ORIGINATOR INFlixIMAB TO CT-P13: A UK SINGLE CENTRE EXPERIENCE

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Introduction and Aims The infliximab biosimilar (CT-P13) received market authorization for inflammatory bowel disease in late 2016 with the aim of reducing cost and increasing access to therapy. The prospect of ‘switching’ patients from originator to CT-P13 has concerned clinicians. We present an experience of ‘switching’ from originator infliximab (IFX-O) to CT-P13 and present efficacy, safety and immunogenicity data from our cohort.

Methods We performed a retrospective review of patients switched from IFX-O to CT-P13 at our center. Disease demographics, clinical course and outcomes were analysed from electronic case records at 8 months and at last follow-up at 13 months.

Results Ninety-six patients (35 female) were ‘switched’ from IFX-O to CT-P13. Of these 44 had Ulcerative colitis (UC) and 52 had Crohn’s disease (CD) with a mean age at diagnosis of 34.7 years (median = 33, IQR = 24.5). Montreal phenotype for UC was Proctitis (E1) = 1, Left sided(E2) = 16, Pancolitis (E3) = 27 and for CD (L1 = 10, L2 = 12, L3 = 29, L4 = 1) and (B1 = 27,B2 = 14, B3 = 11), 9 patients had perianal disease.

Mean duration of IFX-O treatment before switching was 49.8 months (median = 44, IQR = 52) and on CT-P13 11.5 months (median = 13). At switch, 76 patients had a normal CRP (UC = 33, CD = 43), and in 15 patients it was elevated (UC = 10, CD = 5).

At 8 months, 72 patients (UC = 34, CD = 38) were in clinical remission (pMayo < 2 and HBI < 5) and 80 patients remained in biochemical remission (UC = 35, CD = 45). In 14 patients (UC = 8, CD = 6) CRP increased. Of 51 patients (UC = 21, CD = 30) undergoing endoscopic assessment, 31 achieved mucosal healing (UC = 13, CD = 18).

At 13 months 69 patients remained on CT-P13, 28% discontinued the drug due to immunogenicity (n=10), loss of response (n=5), surgery (n=5), remission (n=5), side effects (n=2) and 1 patient died of hospital acquired pneumonia. 39 out of 96 patients had therapeutic drug levels checked within a median of 13 months from switch. 27 had sub-therapeutic levels (below 4μg/ml ),11 of which were switched to another biologic, 5 referred for surgery, 4 had dose escalated to 10 mg/kg, 5 continued CT-P13(4 with no antibodies seen and 1 with antibodies of 127),one had immunomodulator added and another stopped CT-P13 being in remission. Antibodies to Infliximab were seen in 15 of 39 patients (38.5%), of whom 8 were switched to an alternative biologic, 2 had dose escalation (10 mg/kg IFX),4 patients stopped IFX with no other intervention and 1 person continued treatment with low antibody titre of 6.

Discussion Biosimilar IFX (CT-P13) was well tolerated. Clinical efficacy and loss of response rates with CT-P13 appears to be similar to IFX-O. This holds promise for a wider adoption of ‘switching’ to fulfil the purported aims of wider access to treatment at a lower cost.

**PTh-077** DE-ESCALATING THERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH CROHN’S DISEASE RECEIVING ADALIMUMAB: SUBGROUP ANALYSIS OF THE CALM STUDY

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Introduction This analysis evaluated the impact of de-escalating therapy on mucosal healing 48 weeks (wks) after randomization in patients (pts) with Crohn’s disease (CD) in the CALM study.

Methods Pts with moderate-to-severe CD naïve to immunomodulators and biologics were randomized 1:1 to a tight control group (TCG) or clinical management group (CMG) after 8 wks of prednisone therapy. Treatment was escalated from no

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