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Resolution of Refractory Uveitis, Switching Anti-TNF Treatment[☆]

Resolución de uveítis refractaria, cambiando el tratamiento anti-TNF

Mr. Editor,

TNF- α plays a role in the induction and maintenance of inflammation in autoimmune disease, hence the TNF- α inhibitors are

used successfully in the control of certain systemic diseases or autoinmunitarias.¹

Uveitis is an intraocular inflammation-associated to autoimmune systemic diseases, in which effectively blocking TNF- α ² constitutes one of the most important advances in recent years in the treatment of non-infectious uveitis.

The different anti-TNF- α agents do not have the same efficacy on ocular² inflammation and 3 major questions remain to be resolved

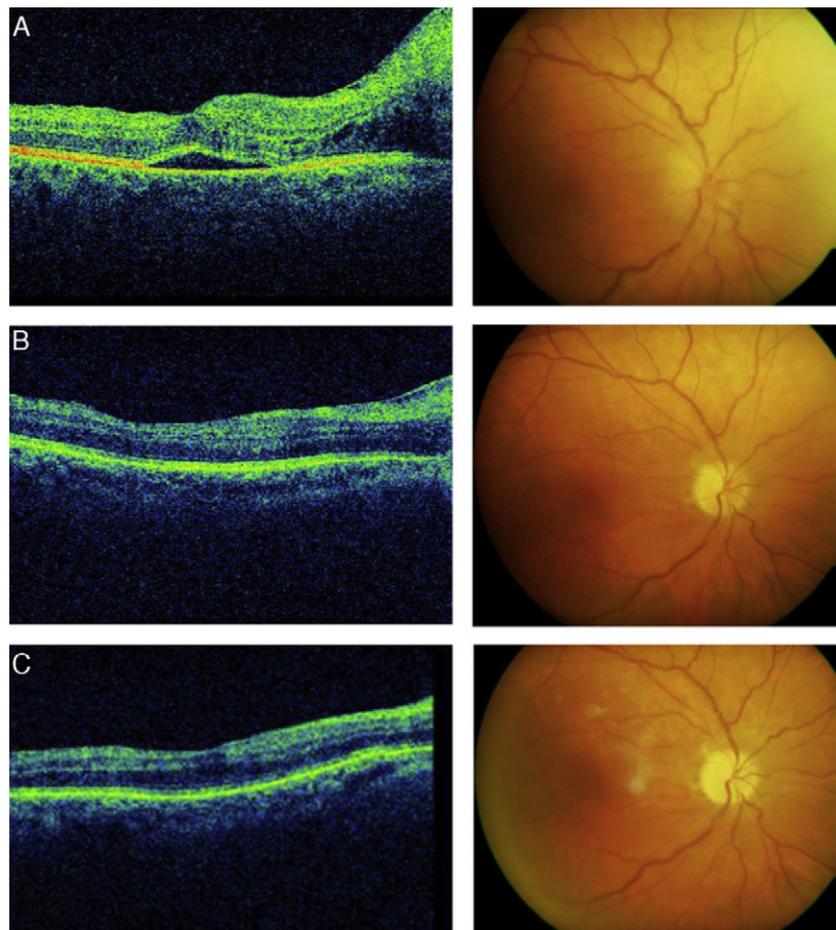


Fig. 1. Optical coherence (left) and retinal tomography (right) of the patient's right eye at 7 months after treatment with infliximab (A) and 2 (B) and 4 (C) months after switching anti-TNF - α treatment to adalimumab.

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(when to initiate therapy with an agent, at what dose, duration, etc.).² Changing biologic therapy works in some cases.⁴

We report the case of a patient with idiopathic uveitis, papillitis, and EMQ, who after 1 year of treatment with prednisone, cyclosporine, azathioprine, and infliximab had no improvement and underwent a change in anti-TNF- α treatment to adalimumab, achieving a major clinical response within 2 months.

In July 2009, a 58-year-old male came to the office complaining of pain in the right eye. Ophthalmologic examination showed Tyn-dall sign (+), vitritis (++) , papillitis with periphlebitis around the papilla, and cystoid emerging macular edema (CME) with visual acuity (VA) of 0.5. The anamnesis for connective tissue disease and spondyloarthritis was negative and the analytical studies had not relevant findings, with negative HLA-B27. The first treatment was transeptal infiltration with triamcinolone acetonide, cyclosporine (5 mg/kg/day), and prednisone (60 mg/day). In August the patient presented a respiratory infection that required hospitalization, so we discontinued cyclosporine and prednisone was reduced (30 mg/day).

In January 2010 the treatment was changed to azathioprine (100 mg/day), prednisone (40 mg/day), and infliximab (5 mg/kg/day, weeks 0, 2, 6, and then every 8 weeks). No improvement was seen and by April 2010 treatment with infliximab was reduced to a dose every 4 weeks, and azathioprine was increased to 150 mg/day.

In August 2010, the patient still had pain, papillitis, and EMQ (Fig. 1A) and 0.2 of VA, so we switched the anti-TNF- α to adalimumab (40 mg/s every 2 weeks) maintaining azathioprine. After a month with this treatment the VA improved to 0.4 and the pain disappeared. At 2 months, papillitis decreased (Fig. 1B), and AV reached 0.5. In December 2010 the patient remained stable (Fig. 1C) with adalimumab treatment and azathioprine (100 mg/day).

There is some evidence that not all anti-TNF- α have the same efficacy in the treatment of uveitis.² Etanercept (a p75 TNF- α receptor and human IgG Fc fusion protein) has demonstrated efficacy in treating uveitis^{2,3,5}; however, infliximab (chimeric monoclonal antibody) and adalimumab (monoclonal human antibody) may be effective in the treatment of refractory²⁻⁹ uveitis. There is no comparative data to support the superiority of one antibody over the other, and influencing this choice we find, among others, the route of administration and patient¹⁰ preference. In case of an

absence of response to anti-TNF, which can be seen, among others, with infliximab due to antichimeric antibodies, switching to a second anti-TNF antibody may be effective as has been observed in other inflammatory diseases.

This case shows that adalimumab is an effective drug in the treatment of uveitis refractory to conventional treatment, even in cases that did not respond to other anti-TNF- α . Therefore, the first choice of anti-TNF- α did not produce satisfactory effects after a few months, and the best option was to change the anti-TNF- α .

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Development of Pilomatrixoma After the Subcutaneous Injection of Methotrexate for the Treatment of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis^{*}

Desarrollo de pilomatrixoma tras la inyección subcutánea de metotrexato en el tratamiento de la artritis idiopática juvenil

To the Editor,

Pilomatrixoma (PM), pilomatricoma or calcifying Malherbe's epithelioma are benign skin tumors derived from the hair follicles. They usually occur in children and adolescents as a single tumor in the upper body and their etiology is unknown. In this regard, it has been described in association with multiple trauma and disease, with no clear causal relationship.¹ We report the

first case of a child diagnosed with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) who developed a PM in the puncture site of subcutaneous methotrexate administration and we review the literature in this regard.

The patient, a girl, was diagnosed in 2007 with JIA at 3 years of age due to the presence of idiopathic chronic monoarthritis and with her father presenting Psoriasis. She had been treated with local infiltration of corticosteroids on 2 occasions and then, due to the persistence of disease activity, was prescribed weekly subcutaneous methotrexate in 2008. Currently, the patient is 7 years old and is on weekly subcutaneous methotrexate (15 mg/0.3 ml), being clinically asymptomatic and performing a normal life. After the last administration of subcutaneous methotrexate she presented a nodular cystic lesion. The lesion was treated with local cold, without improvement. Subsequently, it increased in size and consistency, becoming harder and painful upon palpation. On examination she had a hard, subcutaneous injury and uneven surface on the lateral aspect of the left arm, about 2 cm in diameter, painful on palpation, not adhered to deep planes and covered with purplish skin. We conducted a consultation

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