



MUCOSAL HEALING IN THE REAL WORLD

A satellite symposium sponsored by Takeda took the global and Nordic perspective on the impact of anti-integrins in IBD.

Dr Jonas Halfvarson, who was the Chair, talked about IBD treatment decisions. They should be based on disease activity and severity.

He also pointed out that treatment goals in IBD are evolving – from treating symptoms to applying a treat-to-target approach with endoscopic remission.

– What is the impact of anti-integrins with respect to treatment goals? Initial vedolizumab trials demonstrated clinical efficacy in Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC), and mucosal healing in patients with UC. Are there additional real world data supporting the use of vedolizumab, Dr Halfvarson asked.

He introduced Prof Ailsa Hart, to whom he directed the question.

Global real world data

Prof Hart presented a case of a 27 year old male with UC, diagnosed in 2013. He had limited response to oral and rectal 5-ASA, was intolerant to azathioprine and recurrent courses of steroids. The audience voted on what to proceed with, and most voted for anti-TNF.

– That result reflects current practice at the moment – a steroid dependent patient, intolerant to immunosuppressives. So that is what we gave him. Endoscopy improved and he came off steroids, she said.

Two years later, in 2017, the patient got increased symptoms with diarrhoea, some urgency and occasionally bloody. Faecal calprotectin was 331 mg/g. This time the audience voted for switching to vedolizumab.

– That is again what we did, Dr Hart said.

She continued by talking about the gut selective mechanism of vedolizumab, and presented data on the drug in chronic active UC.

– 47 % had clinical response, over 25 % for placebo, Dr Hart underlined.

Another case Dr Hart presented was a 54 year old woman with CD. She had a malignant melanoma on the left shin, removed with no recurrence 14 years earlier. Again the audience had to vote on what to treat, and a majority voted for vedolizumab

Today, vedolizumab is the first line choice in practice if the patient has a history of malignancies, Dr Hart pointed out.

She continued with another case and studies on real world data for vedolizumab.

– Data from the LOVE-CD trial on vedolizumab in 110 CD patients with a median duration of disease of 12 years and confirmed ulceration at baseline, showed 30 % achieving endoscopic remission, 39 % endoscopic response and 34 % in clinical remission.

Swedish observational study

Dr Halfvarson presented Nordic real world data on long-term effectiveness of vedolizumab.

– In Finland at 6 months, 39 % and 42 % of CD and UC patients, respectively, who had endoscopic data available achieved mucosal healing.

He continued with a retrospective study, based on the Swedish IBD registry SWIBREG, on vedolizumab in CD and UC.

– After two years, the survival of the drug was approximately 40 % in patients with CD, and 60 % in patients with UC, he said.

An interim analysis of a Swedish observational study on vedolizumab, assessing effectiveness and healthcare utilisation in patients with UC, found 60 % of patients who completed 52 weeks were still receiving vedolizumab after that time period.

– 43 % of patients had achieved clinical remission, and 27 % of patients were in clinical and endoscopic remission.

Interim analysis of the same study in patients with CD, had 68 % of patients who completed 52 weeks still receiving vedolizumab. 43 % of patients had achieved clinical remission.

– We look forward to the final results, Dr Halfvarson ended by saying.

Per Lundblad