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Effect of Telitacept In Elderly Patients With Active Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

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Objectives : In the treatments of Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), glucocorticoids and immunosuppression are associated with significant toxicities, especially in the long term or for the elderly. Telitacept is a fusion protein that combines transmembrane activator and CAML interactor (TACI) with the Fc fragment of human IgG1 to target B lymphocyte stimulator (BLyS) and a proliferation-inducing ligand (APRIL), thereby preventing their interaction with all of their B cell ligands, but seldomly used alone or with low prednisone in elderly patients of SLE. In this study, two patients from China with active, autoantibody-positive SLE, receiving Telitacept for six months, were observed to evaluate the efficacy and safety of Telitacept.

Methods : Two patients were met the 2019 EULAR/ACR criteria for SLE and treated with telitacept and sufficient symptomatic supports for 24 weeks without another immunosuppression. First patient, female, aged 79 years old and with SLEDAI score of 8, receive subcutaneous telitacept at 160mg once weekly only. The second patient, female, aged 85 years old and with SLEDAI score of 10, the level of serum creatinine was 239 $\mu\text{mol/L}$, receive subcutaneous telitacept at 80mg once two weeks in addition to prednisone 10mg/d. Clinical signs were recorded before and after treatment, once 4 weeks.

Results : The two patients were found the Urinary total protein creatinine ratio (UPCR) and SLEDAI score decreased 50%, respectively at week 12 and 4. Then in two patients UPCR decreased continuously and serum creatinine (Scr) remained stable in the following time. The first patient was suffer from cystitis at week 20, then recovered after the withdrawal of telitacept a week without UPCR and Scr increasing. Elevated blood sugar was found at week 16 in second patient, maybe because of prednisone or improvement in diet, her blood sugar was effectively controlled after increasing the dosage of hypoglycemic drugs.

Conclusions : The lower UPCR and SLEDAI were found after treatment with telitacept in these two elderly patients of SLE, and no serious side effects occurred.