

DEFLAZACORT - CYCLOSPORINE A COMBINATION THERAPY IN THE TREATMENT OF PEMPHIGUS

G. Trevisan, F. Kokelj and G. Lavaroni

ABSTRACT

Two cases of pemphigus vulgaris and one of foliaceous pemphigus, treated with deflazacort combined with low doses of cyclosporine A, are reported.

Response and tolerance to treatment were markedly improved over the previous therapy.

KEY WORDS

pemphigus, cyclosporine A, immunosuppressants

INTRODUCTION

Presently treatment of pemphigus is mainly based on steroids alone or in combination with other immunosuppressants such as methotrexate, cyclophosphamide and azathioprine (1, 2, 3).

Over the last several years, various authors proposed the use of cyclosporine A in the treatment of this immunological skin disease (4, 5, 6).

This report describes our experience with cyclosporine A in combination with lowered steroid-dosage in three patients affected by different forms of pemphigus.

CASE REPORTS

The clinical diagnosis of pemphigus in these three patients was confirmed histo- and immunohistochemically.

Case 1.

M.B., a 72-year-old man, was affected by foliaceous pemphigus for 14 years. He also suffered from Basedow's syndrome, diabetes mellitus, and essential hypertension. He has been treated with doses of prednisone (40-60 mg/daily) over a long period of time. To reduce the side effects of this treatment, he has been receiving Deflazacort (mean dosage of 18 mg/daily) combined with cyclosporine A (from 2,5 to 3,2 mg/kg/daily) for the past nine months. Routine

