

EVALUATION OF ROXITHROMYCIN IN THE TREATMENT OF UROGENITAL CHLAMYDIAL INFECTIONS

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ABSTRACT

Background. Chlamydia trachomatis infections represent the most frequent sexually transmitted disease in developed countries and probably also worldwide. In women the inflammation may spread to involve the internal reproductive organs, which may lead to extrauterine pregnancy and tubal infertility.

Methods. Twenty patients (15 men and five women) with proven chlamydial infection of the lower urogenital tract were treated with the macrolide antibiotic roxithromycin in a single daily dose of 300 mg for 10 days. Before the treatment, the causative organism was detected with a direct immunofluorescent method in swab specimens collected from the urethra and/or cervical canal. The test was repeated after the treatment.

Results. Microbiological cure was achieved in 19 patients (95%), and clinical symptoms disappeared in all 20 patients studied (100%).

KEY WORDS

Chlamydia trachomatis, urogenital infections, roxithromycin

INTRODUCTION

Infections with Chlamydia trachomatis represent the most frequent bacterial sexually transmitted disease in developed countries and probably also in the entire world. Every year about 500 million individuals are infected all over the world, and between five and six million new cases occur in the United States (1). Urogenital infections, predominantly urethritis and epididymitis in men and urethritis and/or cervicitis and salpingitis in women, are caused by C. trachomatis serotypes D to K.

The infection is transmitted mainly by sexual contact (2, 3) and rarely from the genitalia to the

eyes or vice versa. It occurs in young sexually active persons, mostly between 15 and 35 years of age. Up to 70% of women and up to 20% of men have no symptoms (4). The clinical manifestations in men include dysuria with different forms of discharge; complications such as prostatitis, epididymitis and proctitis are uncommon. Symptoms in women are described in extenso in the manuscript by Vrtačnik-Bokal et al.

In our study we tried to evaluate the macrolide antibiotic roxithromycin (Renicin, LEK Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals d.d. Ljubljana) administered on an out-patient basis. We selected roxithromycin because it has the greatest bioavailability among macrolides

