

USE OF GLUCOCORTICOSTEROID THERAPY AND INDICATIONS FOR ADMINISTRATION OF IMMUNOSUPPRESSANTS IN PATIENTS WITH NEWLY DIAGNOSED PULMONARY SARCOIDOSIS WITH LUNG LESIONS

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Abstract

Glucocorticosteroids (GCS) for systemic use are the major medicines in management of patients with sarcoidosis. There are three categories of patients in which GCS therapy is not recommended. First one consists of patients with contraindications for GCS therapy, second — patients with severe adverse reactions of GCS, third — patients with GCS resistance. These scenarios require administration of second line medications, mostly immunosuppressants, such as methotrexate, azathioprine and leflunomide. There are no available data in world literature regarding the rate of contraindications, serious adverse reactions and resistance to GCS in newly diagnosed stage II and III sarcoidosis patients. Correspondingly, there are no information on true effectiveness of GCS therapy, as well as real need in immunosuppressive therapy has not been currently studied.

Aim of this survey was to study the rate of contraindications, serious adverse reactions and resistance to GCS in patients with newly diagnosed sarcoidosis with lung parenchyma lesions.

Object. 185 patients with pulmonary sarcoidosis and lung parenchyma lesions were examined — 80 men (43,2 %) and 105 women (56,8 %) aged 20 to 67 years ($42,3 \pm 0,8$ years). Stage II was diagnosed in 173 (93,5 %) patients, stage III — in 12 (6,5 %) patients. The diagnosis was verified in all cases using HRCT.

Results. Due to contraindications for GCS use in average each eighth patient requires administration of immunosuppressive therapy after diagnosis of pulmonary sarcoidosis have been established. On the background of ongoing corticosteroid therapy due to adverse reactions and/or resistance the demand for use of immunosuppressants increases up to 32,4 % of cases. Thus, each third patient at different stages of therapy requires administration of immunosuppressive therapy.

Key words: pulmonary sarcoidosis, glucocorticoids, immunosuppressive therapy, indications.

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