

CURRENT PRINCIPLES OF ANTI-CYTOKINE THERAPY OF SARCOIDOSIS

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Abstract

Sarcoidosis is a systemic granulomatous disease, which may affect any organ, but lungs, lymphatic system and skin either alone or in combination are involved most.

Natural course of diseases is quite variable: spontaneous regression may occur, but in approximately 25 % of patients a chronic disease is registered. Based on long term follow-up of 452 sarcoidosis patients, overall mortality was 3,9 and 9 % in 5 and 10 years, respectively. Mortality in sarcoidosis is closely related with progressive pulmonary fibrosis, presence of pulmonary hypertension or concomitant cardio-vascular disease.

In 10 % of the patients in average sarcoidosis may become refractory to the standard therapy, which increases the risk of death or disability.

Current review uncovers major mechanisms of sarcoidosis, emphasizing the role of several cytokines in development of sarcoid granulomatous inflammation and presents leading principles of anti-cytokine therapy of sarcoidosis.

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