

R1 R2 R3 PG0 PG1 Estagiário Tecnólogo
PIBIC Last Name - Oliveira First Name - Lauro Middle - Augusto

Service (sector) Cornea and External Disease N° CEP

Case Study: Patients with severe vernal keratoconjunctivitis resistant to conventional treatment using systemic cyclosporine A.

Lauro Augusto de Oliveira, Marcia Carvalho Mallozi, Dirceu Solé, Luciene Barbosa de Sousa.

PURPOSE: To evaluate the use of systemic cyclosporin A as an immunosuppressant in patients with vernal keratoconjunctivitis resistant to conventional treatment. We will evaluate the results of this systemic immunosuppressant considering the side effects related to the length of time patients have been steroid-dependent. **METHODS:** This study involved 4 patients, regularly seen in the cornea and external disease service, with chronic and severe inflammation on the ocular surface. Because they were steroid-dependent in order to keep the inflammation in the eye to a minimum, they were evaluated by a multidisciplinary team of pediatricians, endocrinologists, nephrologists and immunologists and it was recommended that they try using systemic cyclosporin A. All patients had tried topical cyclosporine 1% before, and reported discomfort and burning at the time of administration. **RESULTS:** All patients reported improvement of symptoms within 15 to 30 days of starting the drug. Slit lamp examination showed a decrease of active inflammation (hyperemia, keratitis, Tranta's nodules and giant papillae) in all patients. One patient developed systemic arterial hypertension. His dose of cyclosporine was decreased and medication to control his arterial pressure was started. **CONCLUSION:** Systemic cyclosporin A can be considered as an alternative treatment for patients with vernal keratoconjunctivitis resistant to conventional treatment and dependent on steroids. Further studies are necessary to determine the ideal dose and to verify the efficacy and safety of systemic cyclosporine A for this use.