

## **MYASTHENIC CRISIS TREATMENT OUTCOMES IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH HUMAN IMMUNOGLOBULINES AND PLASMAPHERESIS**

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Background: myasthenia gravis is a disease caused by a disturbance at the neuromuscular junction. Myasthenia is more common in women than in men in the ratio of 2:1, with an incidence from 0.5 to 5 per 100 000 inhabitants.

Objective: to compare outcomes of myasthenic crisis treatment with plasmapheresis and treatment with high doses of human immunoglobulin.

Patients and Methods: this was four-year study (01.01.2009- 01.04.2013) at the Department of Neurology in University Clinical Center Sarajevo.

Results: 52% of the sample were women, mean age  $40.1 \pm 15.4$  years, and men  $65.5 \pm 16.2$  years ( $p < 0.05$ ), in which the disease duration was usually 2-5 years, 40.7% patients had bulbar type of the disease. In the group treated with plasmapheresis 80% patients were receiving corticosteroids, and 50% in the group treated with immunoglobulins, while immunosuppressants were commonly applied in the group with plasmapheresis (80%). Most favorable treatment outcome was in women (92.9%) compared to men (76.9%) in the group without myasthenic crisis, then in the group treated with immunoglobulins (75%) and 40% in the group treated with plasmapheresis. Unhealed were recorded in 20% treated with plasmapheresis, with one fatal outcome in all groups.

Conclusion: most of the respondents in our sample in all groups were recovered most often in the group of patients with myasthenia gravis, who had myasthenic crisis, then in the group of patients who were treated with immunoglobulins, and less in patients treated with plasmapheresis.